

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH  
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
October 26, 2021

Mayor Fruhling-Voges called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

Roll call was taken.	Fruhling-Voges	Present
	Cummings	Present
	Davis	Present
	Painter	Present
	Rapp	Present
	Van Buskirk	Absent
	Wagner	Present

Others in attendance: Julie Hendrickson, Deputy Clerk, Mike Sennert, Joe Hackney, Marc Miller, Village Attorney, Nora Maberry, St. Joseph Record, Lucas Fisher, Assistant Public Works Director, Jayne Deluce, Champaign County Visitor Bureau, Tyler and Jessie Parsons, Todd and Jamie Hitt

**MINUTES:** Rapp motioned, and Davis seconded to approve August 12, 2021, August 24, 2021, September 28, 2021, October 12, 2021, and October 22, 2021, Minutes. Roll call taken: Cummings- Aye, Painter-Aye-, Wagner-Aye, Davis-Aye, and Rapp-Aye. Motioned passed 5-0.

**BILLS:** Cummings motioned, and Wagner seconded to pay the bills. Cummings-Aye, Wagner –Aye, Davis – Aye, Rapp – Aye, and Painter – Aye. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Jayne Deluce, Champaign County Visitor Bureau, gave an update on what events have taken place in the Champaign County area for 2021 and the financial impact these events provided. Jayne also discussed some of the current events they are working on for the 2022.

Tyler and Jessie Parson residents who live at 1502 E. Grand Avenue had a sewer backup problem in the basement on October 4, 2021, at approximately 1:00 p.m. Jessie had laundry going and noticed water on the floor coming from an unknown source. The water traveled through the lower level of the home. Jessie started the cleanup process and phoned Tyler who was at work to let him know of the situation. The Parsons had a similar incident like this in the past. Tyler works for Lanz Plumbing and Heating a co-worker of Tyler’s had helped with the problem the last time. Tyler then received a second frantic call from

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Jessie because the sewer was backing up in the home. Tyler told Jessie to call her dad Todd Hitt because he could get there quicker than he could since he was at work. Tyler's co-worker from Lanz heating and plumbing suggested that Todd removes the backup valve to release some of the pressure. Todd removed the first bolt and clear water flowed out from it, when Todd removed the two bolt the pressure from the sewer gushed out of the valve and shot six feet in the air and sent sewage from the lift station that is directly across from the 1502 E. Grand Avenue. The lift station was backed up, but the notification system failed and did not alert any of the public work employees. Mike Peters was notified at approximately 4:15 pm and he phoned Luke Fisher. Luke was on the job within 10 minutes. Luke was uncertain as to why the notification system on the lift station failed to notify him or Mike. Luke did some research and the problem started at the west end of Grand in a different lift station. Todd mentioned that the neighbor that lives west of 1502 E Grand has a manhole in his yard and the manhole was overflowing. Servpro was called and they advised they would be there within an hour and half. Servpro got there and started the cleanup process. Hitt reached out to Tami Fruhling-Voges, and she explained that we would file a claim with our insurance company. This claim was sent out on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October with documentation and pictures from the Parsons family along with documentation from the Village's public works department. Hitt did not feel like the insurance company responded quickly enough. The Parsons family heard back from the claims adjuster on October 13, 2021, and the claim was denied. Hitt then appealed to someone else at Illinois Municipal Risk Management Association and was not happy with her decision to deny the claim either. Hitt was also upset that the insurance adjuster did not set foot on the property at 1502 E. Grand. Hitt was told that the Parsons can file a claim against their homeowner insurance. Hitt talked to the Country Companies Financial agent Terry Hill. Hill explained to Hitt that the Parson's declined a rider for backup sewer issues. Hitt feels that the Village should pay the cost of replacing drywall, flooring and the Servpro invoice in the amount of \$7,299.83. Hitt feels that the Village owes Jessie and Tyler Parsons \$15,000.00 to take care of the repairs at their residence at 1502 E. Grand. Hitt also had conversations with the neighbors in this area and one of the neighbors at 1405 E. Grand mentioned that he has a manhole in his yard and that the manhole as spilled over into his yard several times through the years. Luke said that it has spilled over into his yard, and he has reported each spillage to the IEPA as he is required to do. Painter questioned why Hitt would even attempt to work on these issues and not leave it to the professional to fix the problem.

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Miller said that the Village has a different liability than private entity. The state gives higher liability to municipalities. The governing body has decided to contact the insurance to inquire about the denied claim and the appeal process. If the Village considers paying the Parsons, this will be running through the insurance company. Cummings is willing to do some research regarding the appeals process. Fruhling-Voges wants the governing body to understand that the Village is not legally obligated to do anything. Fruhling-Voges concern is the legal precedence this action will set for the Village. Rapp suggest that the Village follows the decision that the insurance company but told the Parsons to contact the IL Insurance Board.

**MAYOR'S DESK:** Nothing to report

**VILLAGE ADMINISTOR:** Hackney presented the Job description for the Bookkeeping/Payroll position. Starting pay will be \$16.00 -\$19.00 depending on experience. Hackney also informed the governing body that Routh position will change, and she will be taking on more responsibilities so her current pay will be increasing by a \$1.00. The job posting will be advertised on Indeed, St. Joseph Record and the Village website. Motion to approve these Job descriptions and posting the ads for hiring the bookkeeping/payroll specialist. Motioned by Cummings and Davis seconded.

Roll call was taken: Rapp-Aye, Wagner-Aye, Painter-Aye, Davis-Aye and Cummings-Aye. Motioned approved 5-0.

**FINANCE:** Did not meet

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** Did not meet

**SANITARY SEWER:** Did not meet

**DRAINAGE:** Fisher and Hendrickson discussed the property at 202 Proctor Lane. The property owner has had nine tandem loads of dirt hauled in. This property is in the FEMA floodplain. Hendrickson reached out to the IL Water Survey they told Hendrickson who to contact at the Illinois Department of Natural Resource to report this problem to them. Fisher explained to the person at IDNR exactly what the property owner is doing. She told Fisher that the property has to have a permit from the state and the village to change the elevations and water flow in this area because it is in the floodplain. The

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property owner told Fisher that he had contacted the village and he was directed to the DD#6 and that DD#6 said they would consider moving the 30' tile that is directly under this property so he could build on this property. Fisher contacted the DD#6 commissioners and requested them to meet with Peters, Fisher, Stickers and Fisher at the property. Luke Fisher reached out to the property owner, and they all had a conference call to discuss the problem with him having the dirt hauled in and that it needs to be removed because it is in the floodplain. Hendrickson typed a letter and mailed it out certified mail. The property owner called Fisher on Friday, October 22, 2021, and explained that he will be having the dirt removed either last weekend or the upcoming weekend. Hendrickson suggested to Hackney, Fruhling-Voges and Fisher that the Village purchase the property from the owner for the exact amount that he paid for it which is \$2500.00. The property owner has contacted the Champaign County Board of Review and requested the taxes be waived on this property since it is not useable. Motion was made to purchase the Proctor Lane property for the exact amount the owner paid and not go above that amount. Motioned: Painter and Rapp seconded: Roll call taken: Cummings-Aye, Davis-Rapp-Aye, Wagner-Aye and Painter-Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Hendrickson mentioned that Joe, Mike, Luke, Deb, Nora Maberry, and Sue Koch from Water Odyssey had a conference call on Thursday, October 21, 2021, to discuss the Splash Pad Hendrickson mentioned that Sue gave us ideas on the water figures to stay away from because they use a lot of water to operate. We did point out that we liked, and she was going to have her design team put together a layout and quote for the Splash Pad. Fruhling-Voges has concerns with the funding being ran through the Village's accounts. Nora said she thought that we could run the funds through the Chamber of Commerce she is going to discuss with Susan McKinney and get back with the Village. Hendrickson mentioned that the first one thousand of the door hanger envelopes have arrived and Nora, Joe, and Julie will be walking the community hanging them on doors.

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY:** Did not meet

**STREETS & ALLEYS:** Did not meet.

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**ATTORNEY'S DESK:** Ordinance Providing for Honorary Street Signs, Motion to approve the Ordinance for the Honorary Street Signs with a few modifications. Cummings motioned, and Davis seconded. Roll call taken: Painter-Aye, Rapp-Aye, Wagner-Aye, Davis-Aye and Cummings-Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

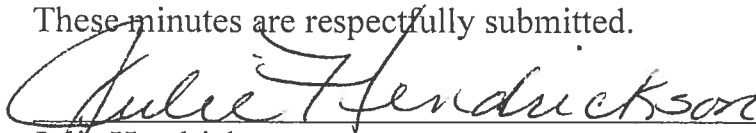
**CLERK'S DESK:** Nothing to report.

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Peters presented a quote for 5 Maple tree to replace some of the trees that have been removed. The quote is from Kickapoo Creek Nursery for five trees at \$240.00 per tree for a total of \$1200.00. Painter wanted public works to check with County Arbors Nursery to see if the trees would be cheaper. Fisher was going to get a quote from Country Arbors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.

  
Julie Hendrickson  
Village Deputy Clerk

