

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

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	Present
	Cummings	Present
	Rapp	Present arrived at 7:14

Others in attendance: Joe Hackney, Village Administrator; Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer, Village Clerk; Marc Miller, Village Attorney; Mike Sennert, Village AV; Rusty Shafer, St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District; Matthew Rademacher & Sean Widener, Clark Dietz; Nora Maberry, The St. Joseph Record.

APPOINTMENTS: Fruhling-Voges reported that she had two positions on the Planning and Zoning Commission that have terms expired. She has spoken with each Commissioner. Jeff Kern has agreed to serve another term. The other commissioner does not wish to continue. Fruhling-Voges stated that she would like to appoint Jeff Kern to another term as Planning and Zoning Commissioner. She will continue to look for someone to fill the vacant position. Page motioned and Vallee seconded to approve Fruhling-Voges' appointment of Jeff Kern to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Roll call vote was taken: Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Painter – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, and Cummings – Aye. 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023* - Exhibit #1
2. Regular Village Board Minutes October 24, 2023* - Exhibit #2
3. Treasurer's Report – November 2023* – Exhibit #3
4. Investment Recommendations- November 2023* - Exhibit #4
5. Approval of bills in the amount of the \$419,666.57*- Exhibit #5
6. Resolution cancelling meeting on December 26, 2023* - Exhibit #6
7. Appropriations Ordinance Amendment Approval* - Exhibit #7

Cummings motioned and Wolfersberger seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented with amendments to the October 24, 2023 minutes. Roll call vote was taken: Vallee – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Painter – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Page - Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Rapp arrived at 7:14

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NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Request for Proposal (RFP) – Development in St. Joseph, Illinois*- Exhibit #8:** Hackney talked to the Board about the property that the Village recently purchased at the south side of the Village. This Request for Proposal-Development is for that property. Hackney gave an overview of the proposal. He reported that with the Board's approval, he would like to distribute the RFP now so the proposals would be returned mid to late January. This would keep the project moving. He noted that he is looking to the Board for direction. The Board directed him to post the RFP and distribute to realtors and developers.
- 2) **An Ordinance Annexing 1563 CR 2200E into the Village* - Exhibit #9:** Hackney noted that at this time the land purchased mentioned above is not yet in the Village. He presented the Board with an Ordinance Annexing 1563 CR 2200 E into the Village. Cummings motioned and Rapp seconded to adopt the Ordinance Annexing 1563 CR 2200E into the Village. Roll call vote was taken. Painter – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, and Vallee – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.
- 3) **Project Update- Elm and Douglas Phase 1*- Exhibit #10:** Presented with #4 below.
- 4) **Approval or Rejection of Elm Street Outfall Storm Sewer Improvements Bid* - Exhibit #11:** Sean Widener from Clark Dietz recommended to the Board that they accept the \$626,300 bid from Duce Construction, but immediately issuing a change order to remove the Pond Control Berm work. This would result in approximately \$370,000 in savings, bringing the total project down to \$256,268. This approach is for the storm sewer improvements only and would not complete the gate valve project.

Hackney stated that this savings would allow the Village to commit funds to clear downstream channels in coordination with the Soil and Water District. This was one of the primary concerns of neighboring property owners. Hackney requested that the Village set a not-to-exceed \$50,000 limit on the clearing.

Painter asked about the cost sharing with the High School. Hackney noted that the first \$300,000 would be split 50% to the High School and 50% to the Village. Any project costs above the \$300,000 will be split 75% to the High School and 25% to the Village.

Painter motioned to approve the Elm Street Outfall Storm Sewer Improvement Bid in the amount of \$626,300 with an immediate change order reducing the price to \$256,268. Also included in the motion is the not-to-exceed \$50,000 clearing of the downstream channels in coordination with the Soil and Water District. Roll call vote was taken: Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Painter – Aye, and Wolfersberger – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

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- 5) **Authorization of Purchase agreement 901 N. Third* - Exhibit #12:** Hackney and Fruhling-Voges spoke to the Board about the property at 901 N. Third. The Village has spent extensive time and money trying to abate the issues on the property but have not been completely successful. The Village has taken the property owner to court and this has not been successful in abating the issues. At this time the property owner has been unable to properly address the issues and has accumulated fines and court costs. By purchasing the property, the Village could abate all the nuisances and then market the property for a business that is desirable for the community. Rapp motioned and Cummings seconded to approve the purchase agreement for 901 N. Third Street with a purchase price of \$300,000. Roll call vote was taken: Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, and Painter – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.
- 6) **An Ordinance Regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act* - Exhibit #13:** The IML has issued a memorandum which summarizes The Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act. The Act is a baseline for employees to receive 1 hour paid leave per 40 hours worked and to allow them to carry over up to 40 hours paid leave annually. The effect is that if a municipality does not pass an ordinance regarding the Act, additional time off would be added to all employees. Miller recommended considering the issue before year end. Hackney stated that the Village does have a vacation time policy in place. He recommended passing the Ordinance as presented. Painter motioned and Vallee seconded to approve An Ordinance Regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Painter – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, and Cummings – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **Tax Levy Ordinance* - Exhibit #14:** Hackney referred the Board to the Tax Levy Ordinance on Exhibit #14. The Total Levy of 2023 Tax Payable 2024 is \$369,597. Cummings motioned and Painter seconded to approve the Tax Levy Ordinance as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Painter – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Rapp – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: Nothing to report

STAFF UPDATES:

- **Village Attorney** – Nothing to report
- **Village Clerk** – Nothing to report
- Public Works** – Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S DESK:

- Fruhling-Voges reminded the Board that there will be a CIMOA meeting banquet on Thursday night at Jupiters and that Clark Dietz will be hosting it. She explained that

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CIMOA is the Central Illinois Municipal Officials Association and that they meet quarterly to discuss issues important to the communities of Central Illinois. She asked that anyone interest in going let her know by Wednesday afternoon.

- Fruhling-Voges discussed the act that the Governor had passed that took away municipalities' 1.5 mile ETJ ability to protest when it pertains to green initiatives development. The Village had filed a protest with the County regarding the 1.5 mile ETJ and green initiatives.

Fruhling-Voges noted that her main concern was solar fields cutting off the growth of the community. If a solar field is installed, the leases are for an extended amount of time usually 40 years. She noted that the County has been working on language to accommodate the protests filed by many communities. The language would take out the section that lets the County Board remove the municipalities protest from the solar development within 1.5 miles of their municipal limits. Fruhling-Voges noted that if even one community in the County protest the amendment, the County will not proceed with it. It is a dead issue. The debate is whether or not the Village should retract their protest. Board members, were in favor of the amendment but were hesitant to withdraw the protest without something in writing. As the only way to get something in writing is for the amendment to pass, the Board needs to decide without that stipulation. Fruhling-Voges stated that she knew of at least one other community that was not going to withdraw their protest no matter what. The Board, except for Rapp, decided to withdraw the Village protest.

- Fruhling-Voges noted that the Halloween party was a great success. There were 60 children. It was a lot of fun. Other successful activities that day included a pickleball tournament and Trunk or Treat.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Nothing

OTHER: Nothing.

At 8:10, Wolfersberger motioned and Page seconded to adjourn the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.



Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer
Village Clerk

Approved: November 28, 2023