

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 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

Others in attendance: Joe Hackney, Village Administrator; Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer, Village Clerk; Marc Miller, Village Attorney; Mike Sennert, Village AV; and Corey Plotner, St. Joseph Middle School Cross Country Coach; and Nora Maberry, St. Joseph Record.

** Painter attended by Zoom. He is not able to vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023* - Exhibit #1
2. Approval of bills in the amount of the \$1,139,641.82*- Exhibit #2

Cummings motioned and Vallee seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented with amendments to the November 14, 2023 minutes. Roll call vote was taken: Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Painter – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Rapp - Aye. Motion passed 5–0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Cross Country Proposal for Sports Complex – Exhibit # 3:** Corey Plotner was present to discuss a request that he had sent to Hackney at the end of November. He thanked the Board for allowing the Middle School to use the Community Park for their program. They have been hosting meets there since 2020. He feels that it is one of the best in the area. It has also greatly with the safety of the athletes as they were running on the streets before moving to the Community Park for meets and practice.

Plotner had a request for the Board. He would like to make the course a more permanent fixture at the Community Park. He would like to put some permanent posts where the starting line, mile markers and finish lines sit. He would also like to see about getting some aeration done on the course and possibly some grass seed put down. He envisions a course that could be the premier course of the area.

Before he does that he wanted to know: the Village's plans for the area; would the Village let him put permanent posts at the Community Park as discussed above; if someone

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donated trees, could they plant trees along the course; and what would the Village need from the program to let them do with these things. Plotner added that he thinks this would be a great addition to the community. He sees people walking the course now as it is measured and people know how far they are walking. He has one athlete that needs to do his Eagle Scout project and Plotner thinks he would be willing to do some work on the project.

Discussion took place amongst the Board. They were in favor of the project but they do not want to lose any of the fields that are already established. Plotner will work with Hackney, Peters and Fisher on the project.

- 2) **Approval of Service Contract with Champaign County Sheriff's Department* - Exhibit #4:** Hackney had presented to the Board with a recommendation to approve the contract renewal with the Champaign County Sheriff's Department for police services for the period of 2024-2026. The previous contract was set to expire at the end of July 2023. However the Sheriff's Department offered to extend it at the existing rates to better align with their operating schedule. This extension allowed the Village to maintain services without an increase, even as the Sheriff's Department faced substantial cost increases due to inflation and staffing over the past couple years. In 2024, the Per Day Rate has a 12.34% increase for 2024 and then 3% for 2025 and 2026. Hackney stated that he feels these increases are reasonable given the massive operating expenses increases the Sheriff's Department has absorbed during the last contract and 2023. He closed his memo with repeating his recommendation to approve the contract and stating that the Sheriff's Department has been a valuable partner for the Village and the renewal of the contract will allow that partnership to continue.

Cummings motioned and Rapp seconded to approve the contract renewal with the Champaign County Sheriff's Department for 2024 – 2026. Roll call vote was taken: Vallee Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, and Page – Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

- 3) **Renewal of Health and Dental Coverage *- Exhibit #5:** Hackney had presented the Board with a Staff Recommendation Letter regarding the Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance Renewal. He noted that the Village's insurance representative let him know that the current plan for employees was no longer being offered by Health Alliance.

Hackney and the insurance agent have found a plan that is the most cost effective for the Village and very limited impact to the employees. They will still have the same level of coverage. The increase for these policies is 1.16% or \$685.56 over last year. The health and dental coverages will not be changes this year. The price and coverage will be the exact same for 2024.

Cummings motioned and Wolfersberger seconded to select 2024 Preferred 3 Tier 1500 Gold Health Insurance for a total annual employer cost of \$62,917.92 and to decrease the employees, to renew Dental coverage at a total cost of \$5,225.04, and to renew Vision at

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a total cost of \$688.32. Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, and Vallee – Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

- 4) **Purchase of a Salt Spreader* - Exhibit #6:** The Board's packet included bid numbers from three companies for the purchase of a salt spreader: Birkey's Urbana was \$5,036.53; Illinois Power Equipment was \$ 4,644.10; and Quality Truck and Equipment Company was \$3,695.

Hackney recommended that the Board go with the lowest price. Page motioned and Cummings seconded to approve the purchase of the salt spreader at a cost of \$3,695 from Quality Truck and Equipment Company. Roll call vote was taken: Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, and Wolfersberger. Motion passed 5-0.

- 5) **Business Grant - 2024* - Exhibit #7:** Hackney referred the Board to Exhibit #7 which is the handout regarding the Village's Commercial Building Improvement Program. He noted that this is the second year of the program. There have been some changes based on how the first year turned out. These were recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and added to this year's application and rules. They as follows: Applications that are missing information will not be considered. Any application from the previous year of funding who did not complete the work outlined in their award will be disqualified for the subsequent year cycle of funding. The deadline for the turning in the grant has also been extended from 60 to 90 days. This will hopefully be helpful to some of the applicants.

Vallee motioned and Wolfersberger seconded to approve the 2024 Village of St. Joseph Commercial Building Improvement Program Application. Roll call vote was taken: Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye and Cummings – Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

- 6) **Public Hearing continued – Special Use Application – Storage Units in Commercial District* - Exhibit #8:** The Planning & Zoning Commission will be addressing this at their November 30, 2023 meeting. Cummings motioned and Page seconded to continue the Public Hearing for the Special Use Application until December 12 at 7 pm. Roll call vote was taken: Page – Aye, Vallee – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Rapp – Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

- Hackney stated that his report is in the packet if anyone has any questions, please let him know.

STAFF UPDATES:

- **Village Attorney** – Nothing to report
- **Village Clerk** – Nothing to report

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

MAYOR'S DESK:

- Fruhling-Voges reported that the Village Tree Lighting ceremony will be next Saturday, December 2nd, at the grain elevator parking lot. She hopes to see everyone there.
- She noted that there will also be a Grinch scavenger hunt earlier in the day on December 2nd.
- The next Saturday is the Holly Jolly is December 9th at the Fire Station.
- The Women's Club Christmas Parade will be the night of December 9th. Page stated that the Women's Club is looking to host a Hot Chocolate Giveaway in front of the IGA before the parade. This may or may not happen depending on whether they can find a service group to help out since most of them will be helping with the parade.
- Fruhling-Voges reported that the Village has been notified of a tree grant that could possibly be used for the park. It is from the Soil and Water District. There will be more information coming soon

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- Rapp stated that he wants the Village to look at policy for planting trees in the parkway. His concerns are that they obscure stop signs and traffic. They also have an impact on utility easements.
- Cummings noted that the Iota Sigma sorority sells cheeseballs every year as their fundraiser. This year Todd Woods made all the cheeseballs for them. She thought this was a great community act and wanted to acknowledge it.

OTHER: Nothing.

At 7:48, Rapp motioned and Cummings seconded to adjourn the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.

Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer
Village Clerk

Approved: November 28, 2023