

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH  
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 27, 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*	Absent
	Painter	Present
	Wolfersberger	Present
	Cummings	Present
	Rapp	Present

Others in attendance: Joe Hackney, Village Administrator; Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer; Mike Sennert, Village IT; Marc Miller, Village Attorney, Jeff Schleef, Cheryl Hinkel, and Tyler Marsh, Village Residents; Courtney Mohr\*, Lauterbach and Amen, Village Auditors; Eric Shangraw, GFL (waste hauler); and Nora Maberry\*, The St. Joseph Record. \* Attended by Zoom. Vallee is not allowed to vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA (\* indicates action item, omnibus motion):**

1. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2024\* - Exhibit #1
2. Executive Session Minutes – February 13, 2024\*
3. Approval of bills in the amount of the \$89,119.62\* - Exhibit #2
4. Special Event Application 2024-002 IBEW Tournament \*- Exhibit #3
5. Special Event Application 2024-003 – Ford Fun Day\*- Exhibit #4

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Lauterbach and Amen- Audit presentation Exhibit #5:**  
Mohr gave an overview of the FY23 audit of the Village. She noted that the first year that an audit firm is working with a client, it is a lot of work on both sides. She wanted to thank Joe Hackney, Debbie Routh, and Ashley York for their hard work. Mohr reported that that the Village received a clean opinion. That is the highest opinion that is available. The audit did not have any issues.

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2) **Presentation Regarding Waste Hauler Contract:**

Shangraw from GFL gave a presentation regarding the benefits of municipal waste contracts. He noted that they are the 4<sup>th</sup> largest waste hauler in North America. Shangraw stated that the rate would be much cheaper for the Village residents if the Village entered into a municipal agreement. He has some agreements that are at \$18. He noted that if the Village billed for the service along with the sewer billing it would not be an increase in Village time but it would be a benefit to GFL and they could pass that back to the residents by offering a lower contract price. Trustees noted that they do not think that Village residents will be in favor of a Village contract for garbage but thanked him for the information and presentation. They noted that they would keep the information for future reference.

3) **Awarding Bids for Parks Field Maintenance for FY24/25- Exhibit #6\*:**

There was discussion regarding evaluating the services that we paid for at the end of the season. Hackney noted that this has not been done in the past. Trustees requested that it be done at the end of this season so they see if the money was well spent. This will help them to decide how to spend the funds in the next year.

Cummings motioned and Painter seconded to approve Hackney's recommendation regarding the portions of the 2024 Community Parks Field Treatment Plan to be split between Spring Green and Outdoor Solutions as specified with the stipulation that at the end of the season, there is an evaluation and discussion of the results. Roll call vote was taken: Painter – Aye, Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings- Aye, Rapp – Aye, and Page – Aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4) **Request to subdivide property at the location of 1651 County Road 2200 E- Exhibit #7:**

Hackney presented the Board with the request to subdivide the property referenced. Fruhling-Voges noted that this is the second time that this property has come before the Board. The last time it was before the Board, it did not progress because the Board was worried about the shared driveway. The Board agrees that this was still a concern.

There was discussion about whether a pre-annexation agreement could resolve some of the issues. Miller suggested that Hackney speak with the Village Engineers to get their opinion on the matter.

Wolfersberger motioned and Page seconded to authorize the Village Administrator to consult with the Village Engineer to determine what should be included in the pre-annexation agreement. Roll call vote was taken: Wolfersberger – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Page – Aye, and Painter – Aye. Motion passed 5 – 0.

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5) **Request to subdivide property at the location of 2072 County Road 1600N 0 Exhibit #8.**

Hackney reported that he had received a request to subdivide the property at the address referenced above. They wanted to subdivide the property to put a small solar farm in. The Board did not have a problem with the request since it was a pre-existing house and was for a solar field. The Board directed the Administrator to work with Attorney to draw up a resolution approving the subdivision.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1) **Continued Discussion of Purchase/PPA Solar Option at WWTP:**

The Board agreed to table this issue until the next meeting as Vallee was not present. Hackney had also given the Board cost amounts for each option. Fruhling-Voges requested that the Trustees look at the numbers very carefully as the budget process will be taking place soon. These numbers will be very important in the budget discussion.

2) **FY 2024/2025 Budget Discussion; Additions/Improvements to Parks and Recreation Amenities:**

Hackney reported that he has a draft budget completed. Hackney requested the Board's opinions on including new lights for one field, a pitching mound, and resurfacing the tennis/pickle court.

The Board gave verbal approval for new lights for one field. Hackney requested the Board's opinion on the pitching mounds and the resurfacing. Hackney noted that there might be options for the pitching mound. He and Fruhling-Voges will follow-up on that. Fruhling-Voges noted that resurfacing the tennis/pickleball court is ongoing maintenance.

Cummings stated that she is not in favor of spending any money since no money is coming in to pay these bills.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

- Updates.
- Staff Report – February 2024 - Exhibit #9

**STAFF UPDATES:**

- **Village Attorney** – Nothing to report.
- **Village Clerk** – Nothing to report.
- **Public Works:**
  - Staff Report – February 2024- Exhibit #9

**MAYOR'S DESK:**

- Fruhling-Voges reported that the governor's budget report that was this week is that he wants to get rid of the 1% grocery tax. During COVID the

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State abated this tax and the State reimbursed the municipalities for the loss. This would not be the case this time. It would just be a loss for the Village.

- Fruhling-Voges also noted that there could be a requirement upcoming from the that the State that the Village would have to have a Building Inspector.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

- Page questioned the fees for tournaments held at the Sports Complex. Hackney noted that there was a fee schedule. Page asked about holding more tournaments and if this would help the park's financial situation. One concern that Fruhling-Voges brought up is that the Village does not want to set the fees so high that the local sports teams cannot afford to use the facilities. Fruhling-Voges replied that she would love to have tournaments at the park every weekend.

**OTHER:** Nothing.

At 8:54, Painter motioned and Page seconded to adjourn the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.



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Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer  
Village Clerk

Approved: April 9, 2024