

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 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
	Wagner	Present
	Van Buskirk	Present
	Painter	Present
	Davis	Present
	Cummings	Present
	Rapp	Present

Others in attendance: Joe Hackney, Village Administrator; Mike Peters*, Superintendent of Public Works; Luke Fisher*, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works; Mike Sennert, Village AV; Sean Widener, Chris Gutkowski, and Nick Rademacher, Clark Dietz, Nora Maberry, The St. Joseph Record; Mark Shelden, Pavlov Media; and Brian Brooks, St Joseph-Ogden High School. (* Attended by Zoom).

MINUTES (Exhibit #1): The minutes of the March 14, 2023 Village Board Meeting were presented to the Board for approval. Cummings motioned and Davis seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter – Aye, Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Rapp - Aye. Motion passed 6–0.

BILLS (Exhibit #2): The bills were presented. Van Buskirk motioned and Wagner seconded to approve the bills in the amount of \$45,755.78 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter – Aye, Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, and Wagner – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement – SJO and Village of St Joseph – Approval (Exhibit #3):

Hackney discussed that changes were added to the agreement and the high school agreed to it. Clarks Dietz is still working on the specifics. Hackney met with the resident at his property and discussed his concerns. Chris Gutkowski, Clark Dietz, gave an overview of the drainage and what their company is studying and making sure they are efficiently draining the Ox Bow. Cummings asked if the resident was satisfied with the discussion. Hackney responded that the resident is happy but still has concerns. Davis questioned the impact for the residents downstream, is Clark Dietz addressing the surge downstream. Sean Widener, Clark Dietz, reported that they are looking at the downstream impacts. Brian Brooks, Superintendent of the high school that the general contractor should have addressed the drainage with the board a year ago. Rapp motioned and Cummings seconded to approve the agreement as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Painter – Aye, Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye,

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Rapp – Aye, Wagner -Aye, and Van Buskirk – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Public Hearing: ILEPA Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts:**

At 7:05, Fruhling- Voges opens hearing for Illinois EPA impact. Nick Rademacher, Clark Dietz reported that the Illinois EPA doesn't have any objections to changes. This is an opportunity for the public to make any comments. There was no public comment. Fruhling-Voges closed the hearing.

2. **Pavlov Media – Request to provide internet services:**

Mark Sheldon discussed Pavlov's plan to come into St. Joseph. The company was started in Champaign and has its own construction teams. The fee is \$69.99 for 1 gig internet per month. They will begin in a month and continue until the whole town is wired. Hackney asked the Board if they had any concerns about this. The Board was fine with this.

3. **Awarding Grants to three qualifying applications through the Commercial Building Improvement Program (Exhibit #4):**

Hackney gave an overview of the grant program. The Planning and Zoning Commission went through the screening process and has given feedback to improve the process in the future. The funding recommendations are included in the packet information.

Painter asked if future applicants don't provide all of the required information that their application will be thrown out. A suggestion was that next time late entries and incomplete applications be thrown out. Fruhling-Voges suggested less complete applications will get a lower score for missing parts.

4. **FY23/24 Budget Conversation: VEF Funding Strategy (Exhibit #5):**

Fruhling-Voges talks about the options that were presented. Painter agreed that he liked the options. Hackney explained the difference between the three options. Hackney asked for direction from the board so when he meets with Fisher and Peters, he can have a plan. All agreed they like stability to collaborate.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

- Written Report (Exhibit #6):
- Updates: Hackney reported that a resident in the country on CR 2150 wants to split their lot. There was brief discussion. The Board members indicated that they were in favor of allowing it.

STAFF UPDATES:

Village Attorney: Nothing to report.

Village Clerk: Nothing to report.

Public Works: Nothing to report.

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Rapp asked about the water problem on Birch Ct. and Locust. He asked if installing a drain pipe into the storm water would help. Fisher explained that he feels it is an underground spring and the problem started 4 years ago. Rapp asked Widener from Clark Dietz if a french drain would help. Widener responded that he would have to look at the situation again. Fisher reported that the water is deteriorating the rebar and concrete underneath the area. Widener reported that they exhausted all non-costly options when they looked at it in the past which is what Fisher had reported at a prior meeting.

MAYOR:

- Fruhling-Voges mentioned that Lobby day is April 19 and to let Hackney know if you want to go so, he can RSVP.
- Fruhling- Voges reported that the State has changed laws for solar farms to be able to go where they want to go. Counties have been working on setting up guidelines, but the state has made the rules that supersede county regulations. She is having the Village Attorney draw up a resolution that the village is against giving up control of where solar farms can go near the village.

TRUSTEES:

- **Updates/Comments from Trustees:**
None

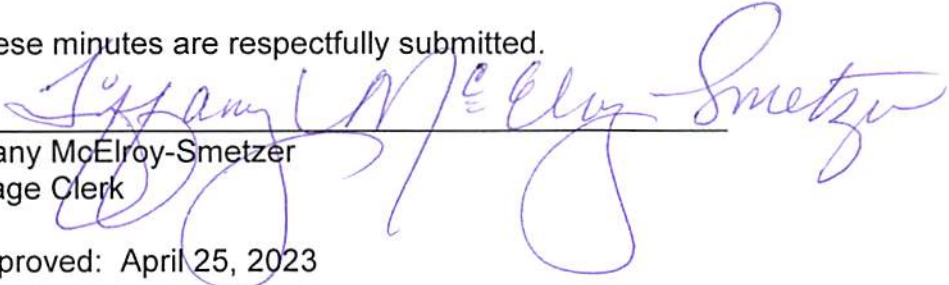
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:10, Van Buskirk motioned and Wagner seconded to go into Executive Session for the limited purpose of discussing the employment, compensation, and performance of one or more Village employees pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c). as well as the purchase or lease of real property for use by the Village pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6). Roll call vote was taken: Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, and Painter – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

At 9:43, Cummings motioned and Wagner seconded to come out of Executive Session. Roll call vote was taken: Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter – Aye, and Davis – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

At 9:43, Cummings motioned and Wagner seconded to adjourn the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.



Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer
Village Clerk

Approved: April 25, 2023