

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
May 25, 2021

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
	Davis	Present
	Rapp	Present

Others in attendance: Mike Peters, Public Works Administrator; Luke Fisher*, Village Assistant Public Works Superintendent; Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer*, Village Clerk; Marc Miller, Village Attorney; Nora Maberry, St. Joseph Record, Mary Clow, area resident, and Chris Gutkowski, Clark Dietz.
*Attended the meeting by Zoom.

MINUTES: Cummings motioned and Wagner seconded to approve the following minutes:

- May 11, 2021, Village Board minutes
- May 17, 2021, Village Special Board Meeting minutes
- May 17, 2021, Village Special Board Meeting Closed Session minutes
- May 18, 2021, Village Special Board Meeting minutes
- May 18, 2021, Village Special Board Meeting Closed Session minutes

And to accept the minutes for:

- May 20, 2021, Zoning & Planning Commission Meeting minutes.

Roll call vote was taken: Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter -Aye, Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Rapp – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

BILLS: Wagner motioned and Van Buskirk seconded to pay the bills for the Village. 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:

Mary Clow was present to discuss a land purchase that she and her husband, John North would like to make. Her husband was present at the May 20, 2021, Zoning & Planning Commission Meeting. McElroy-Smetzer read the

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portion of the May 20, 2021, Zoning & Planning Commission minutes that related to this.

John North gave an overview of what she and her husband's plans were regarding purchasing a 1.78 acre parcel next to their existing homesite. Their current property is 1.96 acres fronting on Old Police Park Road west of St. Joseph. North stated that he wanted to purchase this property to give him a buffer between his home and the new baseball park being constructed to the west on Old Police Park Road. He must bring this to the Village Board because he is within the 1.5 mile radius of the Village that gives the Village rights to regarding subdivision requirements. Miller stated that the Commission and Board could not formally act on the subdivision proposal until a property survey was submitted to the Board. Fruhling-Voges questioned whether any Commission members or Board members had a problem with this plan. No one had a problem with the plan as it was presented. This was non-binding as it was not an official vote but a direction for North that it would be worthwhile to obtain the survey of the property.

Village Trustees stated that they did not have a problem with this as of now. They did a non-binding straw vote with all in favor. They will wait for the final paperwork to make an official vote.

ZONING & PLANNING COMMISSION: Fruhling-Voges introduced the next item on the agenda. Robert and Sarah Goetting residing at 410 N. Main Street have requested a variance to replace their current fence with an 8 foot one. McElroy-Smetzer read the related portion of the Zoning & Planning Commission's May 20, 2021, minutes.

Fruhling-Voges introduced the next item on the agenda which was a Zoning Variance request for Robert & Sally Goetting residing at 410 North Main Street. Goetting gave an overview of his request. The current fence is in bad shape and needs major repairs or replacement. The Goettings would like to replace the south portion of the fence with an 8 foot high fence. This would help keep their children's balls and noise from getting over the fence and bothering the neighbors to the south of the property. They are requesting the variance to include the fence on the east side that runs along a small alley, so they could replace this later. The property owners to the south are the Furrers.

An email from Samuel Furrer was submitted with the request. Furrer stated that he and his wife had no issue replacing the existing wooden fence with a new fence that is higher. The 8 foot fence was fine with them. They thought that the increased height should also be on the back drive (east) side as well. They did not see the greater height as having any negative impact on the neighborhood or properties.

Kern motioned and Cooley seconded to recommend to the Village Board that the variance be granted. Roll call vote was taken: Dahl – Aye, Kern – Aye, Cooley – Aye, Knight – Aye, Crider – Aye, and Furrer – Abstain. Motion passed 5-0-1.

Painter motioned and Wagner seconded to approve the recommendation to grant the variance to the Goettings for an 8 foot fence on the South and East

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sides of the property. Roll call vote was taken: Painter – Aye, Davis – Aye, Cummings- Aye, Rapp -Aye, Wagner – Aye, and Van Buskirk – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

MAYOR’S DESK:

- Fruhling-Voges reported that the Born Trail at Kolb Park is completed.
- Fruhling-Voges presented a joint resolution with Champaign County First to send asking for Federal funding to include Amtrak that would benefit the Champaign County area. Rapp motioned and Cummings seconded to pass “RESOLUTION FOR AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE”. Roll call vote was taken: Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, and Painter – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.
- Fruhling-Voges discussed Debbie Routh and fantastic job in collecting delinquent sewer accounts. On April 8th, Routh sent letters regarding 83 delinquent accounts. As of today, all 83 accounts have been paid in full. The delinquencies paid totaled \$11,518.70.

FINANCE: Cummings reported that things are moving forward with Village Administrator process. There was a Finance Committee meeting tonight before the Village Board Meeting. Cummings motioned and Van Buskirk seconded to adopt the budget as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Cummings – Aye, Rapp – Aye, Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter – Aye, and Davis – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

SANITARY SEWER: Nothing to report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Nothing to report.

PARKS & RECREATION: Nothing to report.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Wagner noted that there were more warnings and tickets on the monthly report from Champaign County Sheriff’s Office.

STREETS & ALLEYS: Chris Gutkowski, Clark Dietz discussed the May 18, 2021, memo regarding the Abbeyfields As-Built. Abbeyfields built the building the Bright Beginnings has purchased. Bright Beginnings is trying to clear up everything on the punch list that Abbeyfield did not finish.

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The memo states:

Clark Dietz believes that **general** compliance (not full) has been achieved based on the information in their report. We believe that the discrepancies are minor enough whereas no further action is required. While we have not observed the additional work by the Contractor, we feel that the previous statement about issues being a private property maintenance issue and not a Village compliance issue still applies.

Wagner motioned and Painter seconded to accept the Clark Dietz report as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Rapp – Aye, Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter – Aye, Davis – Aye, and Cummings -Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

ATTORNEY’S DESK: There was discussion regarding the Monroe Street property. The yard and street are beginning to be filled with trash again. The house is in bad shape. Miller stated that the Board had 3 options:

- 1) Do not do anything.
- 2) Foreclose on lien the Village has for the cost of the prior clean-up.
- 3) Go to court for demolition of the property.

The Board decided that they did not want to do nothing. Miller will work on options 2 & 3.

CLERK’S DESK: There was discussion regarding whether the May 18, 2021, Special Board Meeting minutes should have been approved or not. Painter motioned and Cummings seconded to vacate the approval of the May 18, 2021, Special Meeting minutes and continue their review and approval to the next regular board meeting. Roll call vote was taken: Wagner – Aye, Van Buskirk – Aye, Painter – Aye, Davis – Aye, Cummings – Aye, and Rapp – Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

OFFICE MANAGER: Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Fisher reported that Thursday and Friday, they will be taking soil bores for expansion at sewer plant.

At 8:05, Wagner motioned and Van Buskirk seconded to adjourn the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.

Tiffany McElroy-Smetzer
Village Clerk