

VILLAGE OF ST. JOSEPH
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2020

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
	Cummings	Present
	Davis	Present (By Zoom)
	Painter	Present (By Zoom) came in at 7:10
	Rapp	Present
	Van Buskirk	Present
	Wagner	Present

Others in attendance: Julie Hendrickson, Deputy Clerk, Joe Lierman, Village Attorney by Zoom, Mike Sennert, Nora Maberry, Brian Knight, Dani from SJO Daily by Zoom, Mary Ellen Wuellner and Sarah Livesay from Champaign County Forest Preserve plus 3 additional people from the Forest Preserve

MINUTES: No minutes presented

BILLS: Wagner motioned, and Van Buskirk seconded to pay the bills. Van Buskirk – Aye, Cummings-Aye, Wagner –Aye, Davis – Aye, Rapp – Aye, and Painter – Aye. Motion passed 6 – 0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No public participation.

MAYOR’S DESK:

Fruhling-Voges introduced Mary Ellen Wuellner, Executive Director and Sarah Livesay, Vice President of the Champaign County Forest Preserve board presented the Village Board with information regarding the Tax Referendum that will be on the November 3, 2020 Ballot. Sarah is one of five board members. Sarah also told the village board that the Forest Preserve has over 4000 acres that this tax referendum will help maintain if Champaign County voters say **YES** to this referendum. Sarah also mentioned that without the **YES** vote the Forest Preserve will not be able to maintain all the properties in the future, because of the lack of funding.

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Mary Ellen discussed with the board that the tax dollars that they currently receive for the up keep of the Forest properties is only \$245,000.00 dollars, this money has to take care of salaries, all the maintenance to all the buildings such as the covered bridge in the Mahomet Forest preserve, the waterways, Middlefork Forest preserve, Homer Lake Forest preserve and Riverbend Forest preserve. Mary Ellen mentioned that the Forest Preserve has not had a raise in property taxes for 40 years. The rate that the Champaign County Forest Preserve is asking residents for is .016%. The limiting rate would go from .0873% to .1033%. Mary Ellen said if the taxpayers approve the tax referendum it will net the Champaign County Forest Preserve \$700,000.00 dollars a year. With this increase so many of the buildings and waterways can be fixed and built on to. Mary Ellen said that for a home that cost \$100,000.00 the increase would be \$5.33 per year, thats a cheeseburger and shake people. If the community would like to research this topic you can go to the website Yes to Forest.org. it also has a calculator on the site that homeowners can see how much the additional taxes on there property would be. Mary Ellen told the board that this increase would not help fund the Rail for Trails project, this project is strictly Grants and donations.

Mary Ellen asked the village board to endorse the tax referendum.

Painter motioned, and Cummings seconded to Endorse the tax referendum for Champaign County Forest Preserve. Roll call was taken: Wagner-Aye, Van Buskirk-Aye, Painter-Aye, Davis-Aye, Cummings-Aye and Rapp- Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Fruhling-Voges also informed the village board the Matt Silver resigned his position on the planning/zoning board due to his position with Champaign Police Department. Doug Dahl chairman for the planning/zoning board recommend Brian Knight to take Matt's position on the board. Fruhling-Voges visited with Brian to see if he was interested in being on the board. Brian Knight was raised in St. Joseph so he will be a good fit for this position. Brian attended the meeting, Fruhling-Voges introduced him to the board.

Wagner motioned and Painter seconded to Appoint Brian Knight to fill the vacant position on the Planning/Zoning Board. Roll call was taken: Van

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Buskirk-Aye, Painter-Aye, Davis-Aye, Cummings-Aye, Rapp-Aye and Wagner -Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

FINANCE: Cummings gave an update from the committee meeting on August 19, 2020. Steve Carter from Illinois City/County Management Association attended the meeting. He shared information with the committee options when hiring a Village Administrator. He informed the board about the importance of following the process. The board discussed the value in an interim position that would allow the board to move to a broader search that can take 4-6 months to complete. This would also give the board an opportunity to work out the specific of this full time position. Lierman, mentioned that the current ordinance states that hiring someone for the position must be employed by the village for at least a year and the appointment cannot go any longer than the mayor's current term.

Cummings also mentioned talking with Debbie and Julie this morning, so she has a better understanding regarding the village finances. Deb provided Cummings with a financial update on the delinquent letters that she sent out this month. Deb sent out 96 letters in total and has received \$7,878.01 which is not all penalties but has brought some of the customers current on their bills. Wagner also mentioned that the auditors noticed that the Village had collected \$76,000.00 in additional monies over last years audit. Cummings corrected Wagner to inform the board that the dollar amount was over \$78,000.00. Cummings want to give a huge Thank you out to Debbie for all her hard work.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Nothing to report.

SANITARY SEWER: Rapp mentioned that Fisher and Peters were not able to attend the meeting because of a tree being taken down on E. Lincoln that was about to fall on to the road or other neighbors' properties. Fisher ask Rapp to inform the board that the WWTP had some major problems. Both pumps quit working and the Vac Truck was over in Ogden being worked on the public works department had to contact someone to come and pump the area out so that they could work on the pumps. One of the pumps must be sent out to be repaired. The public works department will continue to solve the issues tomorrow regarding the WWTP.

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DRAINAGE: Rapp discussed the drainage meeting that was held on Monday, August 24 that Fisher requested after working with Kocher Excavating on the retention pond on Linden. Kocher could not do the project for the original bid of \$4,800.00 dollars. Fisher requested Kocher to revise his estimate. Fisher brought the solution to the Drainage committee to discuss the additional work that needs to be done on this retention pond. Kocher is willing to clean out the waterway and haul in riprap and place in the waterway. The total cost for this new estimate is \$32,500.00. Davis motioned and Wagner seconded to accept the new estimate from Kocher Excavating of \$32,500.00 to fix the Linden retention pond: Roll call was taken: Rapp-Aye, Wagner-Aye, Van Buskirk-Aye, Davis-Aye, Cummings-Aye and Rapp-Aye. Motion passed 6-0.

PARKS & RECREATION: Nothing to report

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Nothing to report

STREETS & ALLEYS: Rapp informed the board that the 1st Street project had a small delay due to the company had to get additional permits. The company also found a septic tank and they will remove it as well. The project is now moving forward.

ATTORNEY'S DESK: Lierman informed the board that the school board has signed off on the Fisher easement along with Troy Bates, Cory Swanson, Trinity Acres and Barry Fisher from G. F. Farms, Inc. Lierman also mentioned that the closing for Abbeyfield has been delayed until sometime in September. Lierman mentioned that paying G. F. Farms, Inc will go as follows Abbeyfield \$5,000.00, Cory Swanson, Trinity Acres \$5,000.00, and the village will pay \$10,000.00. Wagner motioned and Van Buskirk seconded to Approve the RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF EASEMENT AMENDING THE UTILITY EASEMENT RECORDED IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ON JUNE 15, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2004R 18269. Roll call was taken: Davis-Aye, Cummings-Aye, Rapp-Aye, Wagner-Aye, Van Buskirk-Aye and Painter-Aye. Motioned passed 6-0.

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Lierman reminded the trustees that this agreement does not resolve all issues with Fisher in the area, but does resolve the questions involving the Abbeyfield and Trinity Acres properties.

CLERK'S DESK: Nothing to report.

OFFICE MANAGER: Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Nothing to report

These minutes are respectfully submitted.



Julie Hendrickson
Village Deputy Clerk

