

This Regular Board meeting was called to order by President Mire at 6:30pm

Roll Call:

Physically Present –Peschang, Robertson, Fiems, Fowler and DeMarlie

Absent – Polenske

Others Physically Present – Clerk Housenga, Attorney Jim Zmuda, Lori & Mark Cross, Tom Faulhauber, Kathy Saathizahn, Conner Peterson of MSA Professional Services (7:26pm left the meeting)

Others Virtually Present – Jennifer Martinson (6:58pm left the meeting)

A quorum was physically established.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda: Fiems motioned to approve 08/12/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, 09/2025 Monthly Bills totaling \$76,999.28 and Treasure’s Report for 08/2025; Robertson seconded. All present board members voted yes, motion passes.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Clerk Housenga gave an update on conversations with Dante Odoni of Odoni Partners the Village’s current auditing firm, as per Mire’s request. Mire and the board are frustrated with the advancement of the FY23 and FY24 audits. The lack of presence of an audit is prohibiting us from obtaining any available grants. At this time no fines are in place for the delinquent audits.

Jennifer Martinsen of Lauterbach & Amen LLP attended the meeting to present the full proposal of services to provide the municipal auditing for FY25. The contract would provide audit services for 1 year, FY25, in the amount of \$19,500.000. Martinsen also explained the FY24 audit would need to be completed and filed prior to starting the FY25 audit. Martinson did note if Odoni Partners is not able to complete FY24 audit their firm would be able to complete the audit for the same price that is quoted for the FY25 audit. But at this time a hard copy of the FY23 audit is not in the Village’s possession, nor has the AFR and audit been uploaded to the Comptroller’s website. The board had directed Zmuda to draft a letter to inquire upon Odoni Partners as to when the FY23 be submitted to the Comptroller’s Office and work on FY24 audit to begin and the completion date. Robertson motioned to approve the tentative rate of \$19,500.00 contract price for Lauterbach & Amen LLP to perform the municipal audit for fiscal year 2025. DeMarlie seconded the motion, all present board members voted yes, motion carries.

Conner Peterson from MSA Professional Services provided an updated professional services agreement to conduct asset data collections and GIS setup, design rehabilitation for the water tower and aid in SRF funding administration. The agreement presented was in the amount of \$79,700 for Project Number 00443042. The board requested Asset Data Collection & GIS Setup to be contracted at a time and material rate not to exceed \$26,500.00, items 30 and 31 of the General Terms and Conditions to be revised to Illinois rather than Wisconsin. Bump requested the board hold off on signing this agreement until he can make a phone call to verify other options for GIS. A Committee of the Whole Meeting was set up for further discussion on this matter and vote for September 16th, 2025 at 7pm.

Kathy Sattizahn addressed the board once again about the overhead power/lighting lines along 1st Avenue. Sattizahn would like the lines to be buried. Per a MidAmerican Energy representative, Jenna, the cost estimate to bury the lines is \$8,000-10,000 but due to the possibility of water sitting on the buried lines over a period during flooding the burying of lines was not recommended. Sattizahn is not looking for the Village to pay for the lines to be buried she is looking for the Village to put in a request for the lines to be buried. Mark Cross a new property owner on 1st Avenue believes there are obsolete poles and lines in the Village. Mire reminded that we as a Village have no legal right to remove and demand contractors remove their equipment. Mire asked Sattizahn to provide Housenga with specific locations of each of the poles where she would like to have the lines buried. After Housenga obtains the information needed she is to call Jenna from MidAmerican Energy to get a new precise quote.

Mark and Lori Cross, new property owners along 1st Avenue then addressed the board concerned about railroad safety. The Cross’s provided pictures to the board of deteriorating rail that abuts their property. Mire asked Fiems is to draft a notice to the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Clerk Housenga is to submit the notice to the Railroad after receiving digital pictures from the property owners. Clerk Housenga will also send notices to other government agencies as well to make them aware of the situation.

PRESIDENT – Mire: Nothing to report at this time.

POLICE REPORT: No report was presented

ATTORNEY – Califf & Harper P.C.: Nothing new to discuss.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Report reviewed as presented.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Report as presented.

INFRASTRUCTURE (Public Works, Water, Sewer & Garbage) – Robertson: Robertson reviewed quotes for the water pumphouse door to be replaced as required by the ILEPA. The door replacement needs to be replaced by October 3rd, 2025. Robertson motioned to approve the replacement of the door at the water pumphouse a cost not to exceed \$10,000; Fowler seconded the motion. All present board members voted yes, motion carries.

Robertson reviewed the ordinance pertaining to weeds and grass height. Robertson then referred to the property located near Schuler’s Shady Grove. Piles of cut down trees have accumulated at the property. Mire would like to explore options for condemning the building on the same property. Concerns over flooding is a concern since the property has a drainage ditch and if heavy water flow were to occur it could create an issue.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY – Polenske: Nothing to report at this time.

VIDEO GAMING, COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENT PLANNING – Fowler: Fowler reported gaming revenues received this last month were \$4,224.82.

Fowler authorized a \$250.00 donation to the Rapids City Fire Protection District for their annual Halloween Party.

Fowler also authorized a \$250.00 expenditure for Halloween Candy for the Village to pass out on Halloween evening.

ORDINANCE, LICENSES, BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Peschang: Peschang reviewed the permit log for the month of August 2025, 2 general permits, 1 new construction permit issued.

Peschang also reviewed the ordinance revision proposed by Housenga. The revised ordinance is driven by the recently passed Public Act 104-0167. This matter will be revisited at a future meeting.

FINANCE – DeMarlie: Nothing to report at this time.

PERSONNEL & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fiems: Fiems reviewed the travel request for employees Bump and Meier for the IRWA Conference. The Conference will count as continuing education hours for their water licenses. Fiems motioned to approve Bump and Meier to attend the IRWA Conference with hotel and meal expenses up to \$750.00; Robertson seconded the motion. All present board members voted yes, motion carries.

ELECTIONS – Mire: Nothing to report at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

The board unanimously agreed to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting at 8:32pm.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk