

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
November 17, 2025**

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Rossville Municipal Building located at 120 East Attica Street in Rossville, Illinois.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Black and Trustees Layden, Wallace, Mikel, Ault and Gammon physically present.
Trustees absent – Trustee Ward

Guests present were Clerk White, Kenneth Gammon, Richard Queen, Ashton Merbach and Toby Valentino from Ranger Power.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held October 20, 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Mikel to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented with an omnibus vote. Vote: Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for September 2025 was presented. October's report is still being worked on due to the system upgrade. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Gammon to approve the September 2025 Treasurer's report. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed in the Finance & Budget Committee meeting earlier. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Wallace to approve the bills for payment as presented. Vote: Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes.

Superintendent Lusk's report – Trustee Gammon mentioned JULIE locates and noticed the City of Sheridan is still having issues with the boring for fiber installations.

Richard Queen noticed the maintenance department is working on preparing the street light poles for the new Christmas lights to be placed on the poles on East and West Attica Street.

Sewer Operator's report – Sewer Operator Clayton Snyder's written report was presented. There were no questions or comments at this time.

Police report – There were no further comments on Chief Greene's report. Mayor Black commented that the owner of the building next to the ambulance building would like the contractor and themselves to meet with Superintendent Lusk before any work begins so they know they are doing what is required.

Richard Queen, President of RCO (Rossville Community Organization) presented a donation request for the Christmas weekend events on December 6, 2025. The request noted items the RCO donates to. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Layden to donate \$1,000 to the RCO for the Christmas weekend with the funds to be deducted from the Events line item. Vote: Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$47,104.93. There were 2 miscellaneous invoices totaling \$829.59, making the total accounts receivable as \$47,934.52 with no shut offs. Trustee Gammon reminded Clerk White to remove the mowing for 307 Benton since it was voted to write the amount off last month.

Review of the 2026 calendar for holidays – The 2026 calendar was reviewed for holidays for Village employees.

207 Harrison – Mayor Black reported Superintendent Lusk had a dye test ran from the drain in the basement of 207 Harrison. The dye ran to the Village's 5" tile, to the collector in the alley by the Frontier building, and then on out of the system with no blockages. The dye test worked as the Village expected therefore, not warranting digging a hole on Village property and disconnecting the drain. The owner may contact an attorney if the Village doesn't do anything about his issue. Mayor Black informed the owner the Village is investigating under Route 1 where the tile gets smaller but other than that, the Village did what they said they would do and the test performed as the Village expected. Other neighbors in the area have disconnected themselves from the tile.

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Ranger Power – Ashton Merbach and Toby Valentino from Ranger Power presented information regarding a proposed solar project (Middle Fork Solar Project-approximately 1,600 acres) they have in Vermilion County and introduced their company. The Middle Fork Solar project will provide approximately \$35 million in tax revenue over its maximum 40-year lifespan, to be distributed among the county, township, and village, though specific details for Rossville are still being determined through an economic survey. There are 2 parcels that are within 1.5 miles of Village limits. The Village can opt to not site solar on those parcels, which Mayor Black and Trustee Gammon have stated the Village will not approve solar within 1.5 miles of Village jurisdiction per Village ordinances. Ranger Power would then request a permit to bury the substation power lines to connect to the already built substation that is within the 1.5 miles of Village jurisdiction.

The solar arrays consist of panels of steel piles that track the sun, with no concrete involved, and the site will be fenced with woven wire. Ranger Power intends to submit their sighting permit application to the Vermilion County Board in early 2026.

Mayor Black requested a list of Ranger Power's last five projects near a town, along with contacts, which Ranger Power agreed to compile. The company would be willing to enter into a formal development agreement with the Village, even if it is only for the substation and transmission lines within the 1.5-mile area.

The company also addressed decommissioning, confirming the land will be fully restored and a bond is secured with the county and state to cover decommissioning costs.

Keep Vermilion County Beautiful Dues – A copy of the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful Dues have not been received. The matter was tabled.

Appraisal Fees for Village-Owned Properties to Sell – Trustee Gammon asked why real estate cannot be sold like equipment. Mayor Black explained according to statutes 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1, real estate cannot be sold for less than 80% of the appraised value. The matter was tabled.

BHRA Post Prom Donation Request – BHRA Post Prom Committee submitted a donation request for Post Prom. Someone asked how much was donated last year. Someone estimated \$500. Motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Mikel to donate the same amount as last year to the BHRA Post Prom Committee. Vote: Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes. Gammon, yes.

Financing & Budget - Tax Levy Ordinance - Clerk White stated the numbers were received from the County Clerk website and the estimated tax levy amount was presented at last month's meeting. The dollar figures were divided amongst the general fund departments as usual. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Wallace to adopt the tax levy ordinance for FY2026 for \$19,543.65, which is below 5% over last year. Vote: Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes. Ordinance 2025-17 passed.

Police, Health & Safety - FLOCK agreement amendment – Problems have occurred with the FLOCK cameras. They want to replace the cameras with a different brand other than FLOCK. Mayor Black stated the problem is they would have to request a permit from the State which would take quite a while to obtain. It was proposed that FLOCK sell the Village the 2 poles the cameras sit on for \$1 each. The Village would own the poles and would not require a permit to replace the cameras. Once the Village is done with the poles, the Village would sell them back to FLOCK for \$1 each and the Village would no longer own them. Trustee Gammon asked what happens if someone hits one of the poles. Mayor Black will ask if the Village insurance would cover the repairs to the camera as well as the pole. The matter was tabled until the insurance company confirms coverage details.

Planning/Public Works - Storm System Tile Upgrade under Route 1 – Mayor Black stated Superintendent Lusk would like to start on the Storm System tile project. Trustee Gammon reported the Village would first have to approve paying the engineer to look at the project, write it up, prepare the bid documents and receive an IDOT permit. The storm water tile that begins in the alley behind the village office and goes under Route 1 is too small. The Village proposes boring under Route 1 and install a bigger tile to match the size of tile on each side of the alley. The engineer, Will Gray, estimated his costs not to exceed \$20,000. Mayor Black asked if the project could be TIF funded. Trustee Gammon expected to use TIF funds. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Gammon to approve paying Engineer Will Gray an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for engineering fees and oversee the project. Vote: Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes.

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Grants/Funding – Trustee Mikel’s committee met on Wednesday evening and prioritized a list of projects that grants may be applied for. Trustee Mikel emailed board members a link to the spreadsheet with the list of color coded prioritized projects. Trustee Mikel asked board members to review the spreadsheet to see if any changes need corrected. The spreadsheet has been given over to the grant writer, Fredi Beth. Trustee Mikel talked with Fredi Beth regarding grants and the Village needs a strategic plan laid out, a structured plan to make improvements. Without a 5-10-15 year plan drawn out, the Village will come up short on applying for some of the grants. Fredi Beth brought up that there is a program sponsored by Western Illinois University called Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs Mapping. They collect a group of 30-40 people active in the community who would review pieces of information then map out what they feel is pertinent in the area. This program would replace the need to hire a group to review the information. The estimated cost for this program is between \$2,500-\$5000 to have someone come out to canvas 30-40 individuals to participate in the program. The other group would cost between \$20,000-\$100,000. Trustee Mikel is asking the Board if they want to spend the \$2,500-\$5000 to have someone come here to go over the program. The earliest someone could come out is January. This program may be the best shot the Village has to obtain some grants. The matter will be tabled so Trustee Mikel can obtain more information and revisit at a later date.

Beautification/Public Spaces – Trustee Ward was absent.

CAFÉ: Community Assistance, Functions, Engagement – Trustee Ault had nothing to report.

Trustee Gammon stated the transmission parts for the maintenance truck have been ordered. Trustee Gammon said it would probably be 3 weeks before the parts come in.

Economic Development/Business Growth – Trustee Gammon had nothing further to report.

Strategic Planning/Revitalization – Trustee Layden had nothing to report.

Old Business –

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Mikel to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 12-15-25