

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
April 21, 2025

Mayor Queen 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Queen and Trustees Jones, Wallace, Daniel, Black and Gammon physically present.

Trustees absent – Trustees Cornell

Guests present were Clerk White, Jim Crose (Crose Insurance), Linda Masengale-RCAS representative, Louise Walter-RCAS representative, Dean Walter-RCAS representative, Tammy Pollitt-Birth to 5 Illinois representative, Kenneth Gammon and Renae Ward.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held March 17, 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated March 17, 2025 and approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes.

Minutes of the special board meeting dated April 14, 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Wallace to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. Vote: Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for March 2025, was presented. The March Treasurer's report was reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting held earlier. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Wallace to accept the Treasurer's report for March 2025. Vote: Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting earlier. Trustee Gammon reported the check for USDA Rural Development, in the amount of \$18,268.75, is a fiscal year 2026 expense and should be voided and presented for approval at next month's meeting, which will be in the new fiscal year. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Black to approve the bills as presented with the exception of the check for USDA Rural Development for \$18,268.75, which should be voided and presented in May, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes.

Superintendent Lusk's report – There were no comments on Superintendent Lusk's written report.

Sewer Operator's report – There was no report presented this evening.

Police report – Trustee Black read Chief Greene's police report. Chief Greene wrote on her report that she attached a quote from Axon for an in-car camera for the new Charger. The attachment was not received.

Louise Walter desperately pleaded for new E.M.T.s (Emergency Medical Technician) for the volunteer Rossville Community Ambulance Service (RCAS). In 2-4 years, without new recruits, Mrs. Walter stated it is likely that Rossville will lose their ambulance service. RCAS operates with only 5 EMTs, with the majority of the EMTs being over 65 years of age. Trustee Gammon asked if DACC offers an EMT class. Mrs. Walter stated that DACC does offer an EMT class twice a year for \$1,000. RCAS representatives asked for suggestions to get the word out. Mrs. Walter asked if a letter could be sent with utility bills. Clerk White suggested asking the post office on procedures to send a mailing to every address with a Rossville address to possibly retrieve some country residents with a Rossville address to become an EMT. Trustee Jones suggested sending flyers home with school kids to take home. Trustee Gammon suggested contacting Robert Danner, who is the Rossville-Alvin representative for the BHRA Cooperative Board, to see if a letter could be sent to BHRA to see if any juniors/seniors would be interested in becoming EMTs.

Jim Crose, from Crose Insurance – Jim Crose reviewed health and life insurance premiums for the upcoming fiscal year. Also, if employees who continue working past age 65 elect to enroll in Medicare Part B or an Advantage plan, the employees could be removed from the Village plan, which would save approximately \$1800 each, per month, in Village expenses. Possible raises were also discussed.

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Mr. Crose was asked at the previous regular board meeting if the monthly premium for life insurance would increase if the coverage increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Crose provided a comparison between Principal Life Insurance at \$30,000 coverage at \$20.61(current plan) for each employee to Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) at \$50,000 coverage at \$11.35 per employee. Employees over 65 would have a reduction in coverage on the BC/BS plan to \$32,500 at \$7.38 per employee and Principal Life would have reduced coverage at \$19,500 at \$13.40 per employee per month. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to approve the Blue Cross/Blue Shield life insurance plan consisting of \$50,000 coverage for full-time employees under 65 years of age and \$32,500 for 65 and over effective May 1, 2025. Vote: Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to renew the current health insurance policy (P5E1BCE) with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for full-time employees effective May 1, 2025. Vote: Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes. Plans for vision and dental are offered through Delta Dental as an option for employees to pay.

Tammy Pollitt presented the “Birth to Five Illinois” program to board members. Community members in Region 54 (Vermilion County) have identified the lack of available Early Childhood Education and Care (ECAC) staff and available program slots as major needs in our community. Ms. Pollitt handed out her business card and bookmarks with a website for more information and on the back are scannable icons to search for resources for childcare. There is also a concern to find specialists who see children under the age of 8 for mental health and behavioral issues.

Rossville resident Renae Ward, was requested to do an interview with the Commercial News regarding the Community Garden, which will be located on the Village-Owned vacant lot at 308 Dale. Ms. Ward had questions regarding the installation of the water spigot, the tilling for the gardens and when she can start planning and be able to request volunteers and dates to begin work. Trustee Black referred her to Superintendent Lusk for answers to those questions.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance as \$28,341.14 for utilities plus \$600.00 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$28,941.14. There were no shut offs for the month.

Approving Executive Session Minutes for Release – Approving executive session minutes for release will be done after executive session.

Resolution to Destroy Approved Executive Session Tapes – A resolution was presented to destroy tape recordings of executive session meetings that the minutes were approved for release at least 18 months ago. The dates on the resolution are as follows:

- Regular board meetings dated 4/16/18, 7/18/22, 3/20/23, 4/24/23 and 5/15/23,
- Special board meetings dated 4/6/23 and 10/6/23, and
- Police, Health & Safety Committee meeting dated 5/8/23.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to approve the resolution to destroy tape recordings for meetings held and the minutes were approved for release at least 18 months ago for the regular board meetings dated 4/16/18, 7/18/22, 3/20/23, 4/24/23 and 5/15/23 and special board meetings dated 4/6/23 and 10/6/23 and Police, Health & Safety Committee meetings dated 5/8/23. Vote: Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Black, yes. Resolution 2025-04 passed.

Little League Parade Resolution – A resolution was presented to authorize the closure of Route 1 (Chicago Street) on May 3, 2025 from 10a.m.-10:30 a.m. from Green Street to Stufflebeam Drive for the Opening Day for the Little League parade. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to approve the resolution authorizing the closure of Route 1 from Green Street to Stufflebeam Drive for the Little League parade to be held on May 3, 2025, from 10-10:30a.m. Vote: Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. Resolution 2025-05 passed.

Discuss/Approve Foreclosure on 306 & 308 Maple – Board members discussed whether to foreclose on a lien placed on 306 & 308 Maple after demolition. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Wallace to proceed with foreclosure proceedings on 306 & 308 Maple for demolition and other expenses. Vote: Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes.

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A motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to declare the old Sure-Trac 12' trailer, which was purchased for approximately \$1,500, as surplus property and authorize Superintendent Lusk to sell the trailer for the best possible price. Vote: Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Purchase a new Mower/Trailer – Superintendent Lusk provided board members with quotes for a new 2025-16' Sure-Trac utility trailer for \$4,373 (tax exempt), including title transfer and municipal plates from Johnson Trailer Sales, a G3 6000 Series 60" Toro mower for \$15,248.24 from Double Y Sales & Service and 2 quotes for a tractor mower from John Deere in Hoopeston. The John Deere tractor mower has 2 options. The prices for each option are:

- 1) Tractor mower without loader \$28,043.00
- 2) Tractor mower with loader \$35,066.00

Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Black to authorize Superintendent Lusk to purchase a 2025-16' Sure-Trac trailer from Johnson Trailer Sales for \$4,373, a G3 6000 Series 60" Toro mower from Double Y Sales & Service for \$15,248.24 and a John Deere tractor mower with loader from Hoopeston John Deere for \$35,066 (not to exceed \$40,000). Vote: Jones, yes; Black, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes.

A motion was made at last month's meeting to designate Longview Bank as a depository for the Village of Rossville. An ordinance was presented to amend Section 2.12.040 of the Village Treasurer in the administrative and personnel section to designate Longview Bank as a depository for the Village of Rossville. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to adopt the ordinance amending Section 2.12.040 to designate Longview Bank as a depository for the Village of Rossville. Vote: Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes. Ordinance 2025-05 passed.

Update on 217 Perry – Mayor Queen reported the sale of the Village-owned property located at 217 Perry is complete. The funds have been received from the sale of the property. A spreadsheet has been prepared stating the funds received from the sale of the property, the expenses deducted from the proceeds and the balance of \$12,414.31 will be issued in a check to Marie Leland as agreed. Board members were asked to review the spreadsheet for verification. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to approve the spreadsheet and authorize a check be issued to Marie Leland for \$12,414.31 for the balance of the sale minus expenses. Vote: Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Ordinance Amending Chapter 13-Make Owners/Tenants Joint and Severally Liable – An ordinance was presented to Amend Chapter 13 (Public Services) in the Village ordinances to define responsible person and liability for charges as landlord/tenant/contract buyer/resident as joint and severally liable for unpaid costs, fees and penalties incurred under this Chapter. After the topic has been on the agenda and discussed for several months, a motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to approve and adopt the ordinance making the property owner, tenant, person residing in the building or person buying on contract joint and severally liable for unpaid costs, fees, and penalties incurred under Chapter 13. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Daniel, yes. Ordinance 2025-06 passed.

MFT Supplemental Resolution for 70,000 for Tar/Chip – A supplemental resolution for MFT Tar/Chip for \$70,000 along with an estimate of costs of \$234,791.56 for road improvements on Gilbert Street, Attica Street, Sewer Plant and Village Parking Lot were presented. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to approve the supplemental resolution for MFT Tar/Chip for \$70,000. Vote: Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes. Resolution 2025-06 passed.

Storm Sewer Installation Cost Share for Repairs – Superintendent Lusk reported the ditch by 102 York has been full of water during rainy season. Allen and Trisha Willard, Superintendent Lusk's son-in-law and daughter, recently purchased 102 York and noticed the issue. Mr. Willard hired someone to look at the problem and find a resolution. The contractor met with Superintendent Lusk to report the possible solution to the issue. Superintendent Lusk explained there is a storm tile that runs along Route 1. Superintendent Lusk proposed running a storm tile up the ditch from the tile on Route 1, allow the Willards to tie on to the storm sewer tile, build an outlet, and allow Mr. Willard to have the problem fixed according to Village requirements. The Village would reimburse Mr. Willard for the Village portion of the expense. Once the Village reimburses Mr. Willard, the storm sewer along the ditch will become Village property. Mr. Willard would own his portion of the storm sewer that was tied on. Motion was made by Black, seconded by

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Daniel to approve the cost share solution to the storm sewer issue around 102 York as proposed by Superintendent Lusk. Vote: Jones, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes.

Resolution Amending the Annual Contribution Amount to the Police Car Sinking Fund – A resolution was presented to increase the annual contribution to the Police Car Sinking Fund from \$7,000 to \$10,000 effective May 1, 2025. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to approve the resolution to increase the annual contribution to the Police Car Sinking Fund from \$7,000 to \$10,000 effective May 1, 2025. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes. Resolution 2025-07 passed.

Facade Improvement Grant Application – A Façade Improvement Grant application was received from Aaron Patten, Patten Development Group LLC to improve 110-112 E. Attica Street (Rossville Laundromat). The project would include new siding and windows in rear of the building, paint all block in rear of building that is already white, siding in front of building & paint areas that can't be wrapped in metal, add 3 windows to west side for egress in bedrooms, tuckpoint & seal west wall. The total cost of the project is \$25,000. Any amount of assistance is greatly appreciated. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to grant Mr. Patten up to \$5,000. Vote: Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Phil Black submitted his resignation as trustee for the Village of Rossville, effective prior to swearing in newly elected officials on April 30, 2025. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Daniel to accept Trustee Black's resignation as Village Trustee, effective prior to swearing in newly elected officials on April 30, 2025. Vote: Black, abstain; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes.

Finance & Purchasing – Trustee Black reviewed the proposed FY26 budget ordinance, which was posted in the village office prior to April 4, 2025. The budget will be voted on at the Special Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Trustee Gammon reported Clerk White contacted Iroquois Federal regarding the interest rate being earned on the Money Market account. The current interest rate was 0.60% and was increased to 1.40%.

Clerk White requested interest rates for the Panhandle CD which will mature on April 30, 2025. The rates were as follows:

Iroquois Federal		Longview Bank	
3 month	\$4.325%	3 month	\$4.5%
6 month	\$4.15%	6 month	\$4.5%
9 month	\$4.00%	9 month	\$4.25%
		1 year	\$4.00%

Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Jones to renew the Panhandle CD at Longview Bank for 6 months at 4.5% interest rate. Vote: Wallace, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes.

Police, Health & Safety – Chief Greene submitted a request to purchase an Axon camera system for the new squad for approximately \$8,000. The payments would be \$2,000 the first year then \$1,600 annually until paid in full. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Wallace to purchase a new camera system from Axon for \$8,000 (\$2,000 due first year then \$1,600 annually until paid in full). Vote: Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Jones had nothing to report at this time.

Gas Committee- Trustee Wallace had nothing to report at this time.

Public Improvement – Trustee Daniel had nothing to report at this time.

Old Business – There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business – There was no New Business to address.

Guests to Address the Board: Louise Walter presented her information earlier in the meeting.

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Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to leave regular session and go into executive session to review executive session minutes under 5 ILCS 120/2 C21 and discuss employee compensation for FY26 under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1. Vote: Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to leave executive session and return to regular session. Vote: Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Daniel, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 8:32 p.m.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to approve the salary ordinance for fiscal year 2026 as presented. Vote: Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes. Ordinance 2025-07 passed.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to release executive session minutes dated October 21, 2024. All other minutes will be retained. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes.

Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Jones to pay Clayton Snyder retro pay, the difference in his current hourly rate of \$23.15 and his new rate of pay \$26.04, for hours beginning March 17, 2025 to current. Clayton Snyder has assumed some responsibilities that Matt Price was doing prior to his passing on March 3, 2025. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes.

Chief Greene's salary was reviewed. No action taken at this time.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Wallace, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk

Board approved _____