

**Village of Rossville  
Regular Board Meeting  
August 18, 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Trustees absent – None

Guests present were Clerk White, Village Attorney Anthony Schuering, Ken Gammon, Austin Reffett from Reffett Properties, Tysheen Roundtree from Solar on Earth and Kevin Callarman from Paint Care.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held July 21, 2025 and special board meeting held on August 12, 2025, were presented. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them with an omnibus vote. Vote: Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for July 2025, and the amended June 2025 report were presented. Treasurer Ault's reports were reviewed in the Finance & Budget Committee meeting earlier this evening. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to accept the Treasurer's amended report for June 2025 and the July 2025 report, with an omnibus vote, as presented. Vote: Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes.

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – Trustee Gammon reported the maintenance employees are seeding grass seed around the new sidewalks. Trustee Ault asked what is going on with the streets. Mayor Black reported Ribbe will begin work on Attica and Gilberts Streets tomorrow. Motion was made by Mikel, seconded by Wallace to accept Superintendent Lusk's written report. Vote: Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes.

Sewer Operator's report – Mayor Black was at the sewer plant with Superintendent Lusk the other day. Mayor Black was informed the Village does not use the settling ponds and the reports indicate the water coming out of the sewer plant is drinkable. Motion was made by Mikel, seconded by Wallace to accept the Sewer Operator's report. Vote: Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes.

Police report – Trustee Gammon noted several items were missing from Chief Greene's report such as the ordinance log and the new vehicle was not on the maintenance spreadsheet. Trustee Wallace has emailed Chief Greene regarding these items.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance as \$35,005.02 for utilities plus \$821.12 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$35,826.14. There were no shut offs this month. Trustee Gammon suggested writing off the mowing for 307 Benton in the amount of \$600 since the property has been sold for taxes.

Paint Care – Kevin Callarman from Paint Care (who represents retailers like Sherman Williams, Ace Hardware), presented a program regarding paint recycling. The State of Illinois passed the Paint Stewardship Act in 2023 that tells paint manufacturers to set up a paint recycling program across the State. Paint Care works with hardware stores, lumber yards etc. or any retailer who will volunteer to assist with the program. Paint Care provides drop-off containers, advertising and more services all free of charge. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, anyone in the State will be able to drop off old oil and latex based paint at one of these locations. No aerosol cans, paint thinners and no industrial products will be accepted. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, when you buy any architectural paint at any retailer, Sherman Williams, Walmart, etc. (wherever paint is sold), the retailer will pass along a paint care fee. Mr. Callarman asked if the Village of Rossville would like to be a drop-off location and set up a monthly collection if they have a shed that could be opened for approximately 3 hours so residents could drop off their leftover paint. Mr. Callarman also suggested sponsoring a 1-day event where a hauler would show up with 4-6 bins. The bins are the size of a pallet and will hold about 100-150 1-

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gallon cans. The bins would need to be inside a building so nobody else besides the handlers would have access to dump in the bin. The haulers are contracted within 7 days to pick up as soon as they are called. There is no cost to the community or the taxpayers for this program. Paint Care will train the handlers who handle the paint, provide marketing and advertising for free. Mr. Callarman would need at least 4 months in advance notice of a collection to coordinate the event. Trustee Mikel asked if the insurance company would require a specific rider for this event. It will be investigated. The first step would be to sign a contract. Mayor Black was in favor of the program. The information will be given to the Village attorney for review.

Illinois Shines Community Solar – Tysheen Roundtree from Solar on Earth presented information about the Illinois Shines Community Solar Program. A community solar project is a project that consists of less than 50 acres. The Village of Rossville could potentially receive a solar credit on the Ameren bill of 10-15% on the bills for the municipal buildings. The program can be cancelled within 90 days. The Village could possibly save up to \$2,900 a year on the municipal building bills. The program is built for residents, farmers and not for profits. Street lighting meters are not eligible for the program. The next step is to give the mayor and attorney a contract for them to review. Then, hopefully, at the next board meeting, the board will be ready to sign up.

Permits for General Fiber Installation and Permit for Directional Boring- Mayor Black reported Comcast and Conxxus are coming to town and want to install fiber optic. An ordinance was prepared by the Village attorney amending Title 12 to impose uniform standards regarding construction within a public right-of-way and other actions in connection therewith and establishing underground construction rules, permit fees, permit application fees for directional boring, hours of operation, limits on active permits, must reapply for a permit if project is not completed within 2 months, company/contractor must have someone on-site to monitor activity and contact Village representative for status report and levels of insurance. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Ward to approve and adopt the ordinance amending Title 12 to impose uniform standards regarding construction within a public right-of-way and other actions in connection therewith. Vote: Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes. Ordinance 2025-12 passed.

Austin Reffett from Reffett Properties and Construction would like to purchase 2 lots and build a 2-unit ADA compliant duplex with 1 attached garage for each unit and a hard surface driveway for each unit on each lot in the Ridl Subdivision (Village Owned Properties) and rent them. Mr. Reffett would like the utilities run up to the house. Mr. Reffett supplied board members with a picture of a proposed duplex with square footage, number of bedrooms and baths and garages. Mr. Reffett asked if anyone would object to a steel roof on the structures. Mayor Black will refer to the rules for building in the subdivision and have an answer at the next board meeting.

Mayor Black reported new “No Parking” signs need ordered to replaced illegible signs on the North side of East Attica and Gilbert Streets. The lettering has faded and is illegible. Mayor Black asked board members if the signs should be moved to the south side or leave them where they are at. Board members suggested leaving the ordinance as is and the signs where they are located just order replacement signs.

Mayor Black suggested installing inspirational signs at Bobcat Cove to view as people are at the pond or walking the walking path. Some residents and board members voted No. The matter was dismissed. Trustee Ward stated garbage cans are needed out there to keep the area clean. Clerk White stated signs for Bobcat Cove were ordered and have not been installed yet. Trustee Gammon asked for the signs to be installed, along with the signs that are to be placed along Rt. 1, that will give directions to anyone looking for Bobcat Cove.

Mayor Black asked if anyone was interested in installing “State Champions” signs for the kids who have achieved State Champion status for track or any sport. Board members seemed interested. Mayor Black will look at sign pricing.

Salary Ordinance Amendment for BHRA SRO- The BHRA school board approved SRO McFarland’s salary exempt as \$65,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. A salary ordinance amendment was presented reflecting the approved salary for the BHRA/BES SRO as \$65,000. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to approve the salary ordinance amendment for the BHRA/BES SRO salary of \$65,000. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes. Ordinance 2025-07A passed.

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Several ordinances and resolutions were not received until late this afternoon. Some trustees asked if any of them are urgent items to take care of this evening or if they could review them thoroughly and discuss next month. Village attorney Anthony stated some were not ready to vote upon but others need to be considered this evening.

Consider and act upon an Ordinance entitled “Ordinance amending Title 8 of the Village’s Code of Ordinances to update the Village’s procedures for abating nuisances created by the presence of inoperable motor vehicles and other actions in connection therewith.” – Village attorney Anthony explained the current Village ordinance does not provide a notice and a “right to appeal”. The violator would have 5 days to appeal and be heard in front of the Hearing Officer, which is the mayor. It would need to be demonstrated that the vehicle is not operable. When the vehicle is proven to be inoperable, the owner can be charged for towing and costs to be removed. Motion was made by Ward, seconded by Jones to approve and adopt the ordinance as presented. Vote: Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes. Ordinance 2025-13 passed.

Ordinance amending Chapter 15.08 to update procedures for abating nuisances created by the presence of dangerous buildings and other actions in connection therewith- The amendment would provide a fast-track procedure for long standing problem properties. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to approve the ordinance amending Chapter 15.08 to update the Village’s procedures for abating nuisances created by the presence of dangerous buildings and other actions in connection therewith. Vote: Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes. Ordinance 2025-14 passed.

Consider and act upon a resolution entitled “a Resolution establishing a public hearing date and time pursuant to the Local Governmental Acceptance of Credit Cards Act, 50 ILCS 345/1 et seq, and other actions in connection therewith- The Local Governmental Acceptance of Credit Cards Act, passed in 1997, requires a public hearing to be held to decide whether to take credit cards for utility bill payments or not. An ordinance will need to be approved and passed to fulfill the requirements of the Act. The ordinance limits the Village of Rossville on the ability to make money on processing credit card payments, and on processing and restricts any rebate from companies who provides a way to process credit card payments. A hearing will be scheduled prior to next month’s meeting. A notice will be published in the newspaper. The ordinance will be presented at next month’s meeting. Motion was made by Ault, seconded by Wallace to approve the resolution establishing a public hearing date and time pursuant to the Local Governmental Acceptance of Credit Cards Act, 50 ILCS 345/1 et seq, and other actions in connection therewith. Vote: Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Wallace, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes. Resolution 2025-09 passed.

Consider and act upon an Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance amending Chapter 2.04 to create a Citizens’ Advisory Committee and other actions in connection therewith- The Village attorney explained the Citizens’ Advisory Committee can be residents, business executives or members of other taxing districts to serve as a sounding board. The committee would comprise of the mayor plus 7 members. Someone suggested tabling the ordinance until next month.

Update on 306 & 308 Maple Street- Trustee Gammon wanted a status update if this is what Attorney Andy Mudd is working on. Clerk White will ask Mr. Mudd for an update.

Bobcat Cove - Trustee Ward is chairperson of the Beautification Committee. The committee will need to discuss benches, trees and garbage cans. Trustee Gammon received some information regarding trees and will give them to Trustee Ward.

Village Owned Properties – Set Price to Sell and Advertise- There are approximately 5 Village Owned Properties the Board is considering selling. The attorney suggested getting the surplus properties appraised if they are in the TIF district.

The solar residential ordinance was tabled.

New Information on Building Homes on Vacant Lots – Trustee Gammon stated we need to decide we are going to move forward with the contractor and realtor to build/sell on vacant lots. Trustee Gammon spoke to Longview Bank about using a CD as collateral to borrow against to fund the building of homes. Longview Bank would charge only

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2.5% interest on whatever we draw. The attorney stated there are other options other than the Village building a house and assuming the majority of the risk. Incentives could be established for potential builders.

Finance & Purchasing – Trustee Jones had nothing to report at this time.

Police, Health & Safety – Accept the resignation from SRO Damilano that was effective August 11, 2025. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to accept SRO Damilano's resignation effective August 11, 2025. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes.

Planning/Public Works- The IMGA Natural Gas Long Term Supply Agreement and Long term supply agreement letter of agreement will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Grants/Funding – Trustee Mikel had nothing to report.

Beautification/Public Spaces – Trustee Ward had nothing further to report.

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

Old Business – There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business – There was no new business presented.

Guests- Guests had no comments at this time.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White  
Village Clerk  
Board approved 9-15-25