

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
September 15, 2025**

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was held at the Rossville Municipal Building located at 120 East Attica Street in Rossville, Illinois.

One minute of silence was observed for the victims and first responders on 9-11-2001.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Black and Trustees Layden (Trustee Jones legally changed her last name. For all future motions and roll calls, Trustee Jones will be addressed as Trustee Layden), Wallace, Mikel, Ward, Ault and Gammon physically present.
Trustees absent – None

Guests present were Clerk White, Village Attorney Anthony Schuering (on the phone), Ken Gammon, Richard Queen and De Anna Kraay from Conxxus.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held August 18, 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Wallace to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. Vote: Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Layden, yes; Wallace, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for August 2025 was presented. Treasurer Ault's August 2025 report was reviewed in the Finance & Budget Committee meeting earlier this evening. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Mikel to accept the Treasurer's report for August 2025 as presented. Vote: Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Layden, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, 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: Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Layden, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes.

Superintendent Lusk's report – Trustee Gammon reminded board members that Superintendent Randy Lusk has attached a map of the proposed striping on East and West Attica for the turn arrows, the 4" double yellow striping and the 24" stop bar. There were some questions regarding the turn lanes. Superintendent Lusk will be asked the questions and report back next month.

Sewer Operator's report – Trustee Gammon noted the maintenance department had a hard time fixing the aerator at the sewer plant. Mayor Black was unaware the sewer plant road was included in the new tar and chip program this year. Trustee Gammon stated the sewer plant road was included in the project.

Richard Queen reported Marilyn Danner obtained 19 lanterns to decorate streetlight posts last summer that were very similar to what Rossville had several years ago. Mrs. Danner donated them to the RCO (Rossville Community Organization). Mr. Queen stated RCO would like to decorate the antique streetlight posts on Attica Street and Route 1 between Stuffbeam Drive and Green Street. RCO would like to decorate the 8-9 posts on Attica with the lanterns but there are no electricity outlets to plug in the lanterns. RCO is asking if the Village could install electric plug ins and drill a hole in the plate so the drop cords can be plugged in for the lanterns prior to the middle of November. Mayor Black will talk to Superintendent Lusk about the project.

Police report – There were no further comments on Chief Greene's report.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance as \$41,583.76 for utilities plus \$10,821.12 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$52,404.88. There were no shut offs this month. Trustee Gammon noted the mowing for 307 Benton totaling \$600 was still on the accounts receivable listing. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Wallace to write-off the mowing of \$600 for 307 Benton Street and remove it from the accounts receivable listing. Vote: Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes.

Ordinance amending Chapter 2.04 of the Village's Code of Ordinances to Create a Citizens' Advisory Committee and other actions in connection therewith – Mayor Black tabled discussion on the ordinance amending Section 2.04.

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Discussion on #2 (Solar Residential Ordinance from new Attorney-Permits/Fees for review) and #3 (Solar/Wind resolution to extend Public Hearing Date to October 20th at 7 p.m.) will be discussed later in the meeting.

Resolution entitled, “ a resolution appointing members to the Village of Rossville’s Zoning Board of Appeals and other actions in connection therewith” - Mayor Black stated Eric Thomas needs reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Bill Gerard would like to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals too. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Layden to approve the resolution appointing members to the Rossville Zoning Board of Appeal and concur with Mayor Black’s reappointment of Eric Thomas and appointment of Bill Gerard to the Rossville Zoning Board of Appeals. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes. Resolution 2025-10 passed.

Resolution establishing a public hearing date and time for the Rossville Zoning Board of Appeals to consider proposed amendments to the Village’s Zoning Code and other actions in connections therewith – Village Attorney Mr. Schuering stated the proposed resolution is requesting the Zoning Board of Appeals to conduct a public hearing on October 20, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the village office to specifically address the proposed amendments to the Zoning Code pertaining to solar and wind, notice of the public hearing and make recommendations as it pertains to the amendments to the Village Board. The resolution does not change any procedures already established. The Village wishes to impose certain zoning restrictions on the installation of solar panels and wind turbines as is consistent with the Zoning Code. If the Zoning Board of Appeals does not recommend the proposed amendments to the Zoning Code, the Village Board will need a 3/5 vote of elected officials to amend the Zoning Code with the proposed amendments. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Ward to approve the resolution establishing a public hearing on October 20, 2025, at 7 pm at the village office for the Rossville Zoning Board of Appeals to consider proposed amendments to the Village’s Zoning Code and other actions in connection therewith. Resolution 2025-11 passed.

Information on Building Homes on Village-Owned Vacant Lots – Clerk White stated this item was to address the discussion with the contractor and real estate agent regarding attempting to build a house. Mayor Black stated one way is to form a 501-C3 corporation that the Village can funnel money to for the building costs. Attorney Schuering discussed with Mayor Black about having a meeting with the builder and real estate agent then discuss other possible ways to avoid exorbitant costs to build a house.

306 & 308 Maple update – Clerk White spoke to Attorney Andy Mudd regarding the status of 306 & 308 Maple. Mr. Mudd stated procedures require 2 chances to locate the owner of the properties. A current address was located outside of Vermilion County. The address was forwarded to Mr. Mudd, who will forward the address to the servers who serve the notifications.

Village Owned Properties – set Price to Sell and Advertise – Attorney advised to have properties appraised prior to establishing a price – Attorney Schuering stated the procedures to sell the Village owned properties as getting an appraisal for each parcel, declare the properties surplus, publish a notice in the newspaper inviting bids or list the properties with a realtor. Clerk White knows an appraiser if the Board would like her to contact her for information. Mayor Black suggested Clerk White contact the appraiser for information.

Establish Trick of Treat Hours – Mayor Black suggested establishing earlier hours since his past experience indicates it is dead by 7:30 p.m. when the hours were 5:30-8. A motion was made by Mikel, seconded by Layden to establish Trick or Treat Hours on October 31st from 5-7:30 p.m. Vote Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes.

Discuss Halloween Parade on Sat., Oct. 25 10-10:30 am., Donations for Golf Cart Prizes and Resolution to close Rt. 1 from Maple Street to Green Street for Parade Route – Richard Queen, RCO President, stated the RCO is sponsoring a costume judging contest to be held in the grade school gym on Oct. 25th and pass out candy to the entrants. Mr. Queen suggested preparing a flyer, with the event details, and send them home with the children to give to their parents. Mayor Black suggested closing Route 1 from Maple Street to Green Street to allow the children room to maneuver with their costumes. Mayor Black advised against parading them down the sidewalk. Mayor Black would also like to have a golf cart decorating contest and offer cash prizes of \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place and \$25 for 3rd place. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Mikel to approve the parade resolution to close Rt. 1 between Maple Street

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and Green Street on October 25, 2025 from 10-10:30a.m. for the Halloween Parade and approve giving prizes of \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place and \$25 for 3rd place for a golf cart decorating contest. Vote: Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes. Resolution 2025-12 passed.

Discuss Conxxus Fiber Optic and MCC Directional Boring – De Anna Kraay, Conxxus, explained that Conxxus would like to bring fiber optic to the Village of Rossville. Ms. Kraay explained the process to directional boring to bury the pipe for the fiber optic. Mayor Black has sent the company the permit fees and information regarding directional boring for the fiber optic. If services are damaged while installing the fiber optic, Ms. Kraay strongly encouraged the damage to be reported immediately. J.U.L.I.E. will be notified prior to boring. If services are damaged and reported, the Conxxus will repair the damages then get reimbursed by J.U.L.I.E. Mailers will be sent to residents stating fiber optic will be installed in easements. Ms. Kraay asked if anyone needs sponsorship of any programs, please let us know. Mayor Black also stated that Comcast would like to install fiber optic in the Village of Rossville as well. Comcast is in negotiations with Ameren to hook up on the light poles instead of boring underground.

Discuss “Welcome to Rossville” Signs repairs – Mayor Black received a quote from Michael Hatfield to sand, place bigger posts, paint and seal the “Welcome to Rossville” signs at both ends of town for \$3,140. Repairs to the retaining walls would be at the Village’s expense. Paint color options are the Village’s decision. Motion was made by Ault, seconded by Ward to approve the quote from Michael Hatfield to repair the “Welcome to Rossville” signs for \$3,140. Vote: Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes.

Salary Ordinance Amendment for FY2026 RAGS SRO – A salary ordinance amendment was presented to amend the Rossville-Alvin Grade School’s School Resource Officer (SRO)’s salary to \$65,00 for the 2025-2026 school year, which is the same as the Bismarck-Henning Rossville-Alvin, BES SRO’s salary. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Layden to approve the salary amendment for the R-A Grade School SRO’s salary to \$65,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. Vote: Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes. Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes. Ordinance 2025-07A passed.

Reffett Property Proposal for Ridl Subdivision Lots - Mayor Black stated at last month’s meeting, Mr. Reffett presented a proposal to build duplexes on 2 lots in the Ridl Subdivision, which is Village Owned property. The rules for the subdivision were reviewed and a minimum square foot of the building is 1300 sq. feet on one lot. The proposed plan for each duplex meets the minimum square footage requirement.

Proclamation for National Suicide Prevention Month and a Proclamation for Proactive Mental Health Awareness Month were presented. Mayor Black proclaimed that September is National Suicide Awareness Month and Proactive Mental Health Awareness Month. Information will be placed on the Village website. Motion was made by Ward, seconded by Ault to approve the proclamation that September is National Suicide Prevention Month and Proactive Mental Health Awareness Month. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes.

Mayor Black asked if we have the redevelopment agreement with Robert & Erin Danner for 126 S. Chicago. Clerk White stated we do not have a redevelopment agreement with Robert & Erin Danner for 126 S. Chicago. Clerk White stated there was a resolution passed in 2022 to authorize reimbursement of redevelopment project costs for 126 S. Chicago not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Danner intended to acquire the property and thereafter demolish the vacant deteriorated structure located at 126 S. Chicago. Mr. Danner requested financial assistance from the Village for the cost of the demolition of the dilapidated structure in order to proceed with the redevelopment of the property. There was no time limit stated in the resolution for demolition to be completed.

Discussion on Intergovernmental Agreement with RAGS for New Track – Mayor Black stated the 6-lane track at R-A Grade School is in disrepair. The School would like the Village’s assistance to make an 8-lane track. Mayor Black stated that if they can do this, with sponsorships like the Cadle Foundation, they would be the only Jr. High in a 3-4 county area that can sponsor tournaments. Mayor Black stated that if the Village could help fund this change, the School would support the extension of the TIF for the next 23 years. Ms. Layden was opposed to using Village funds for a track. Trustee Ward suggested talking to Conxxus for a sponsorship. Mayor Black stated the completed cost would be approximately \$325,000. Attorney Schuering stated the project is a TIF eligible expense for a capital improvement for a taxing body. Mr. Schuering informed board members in order to get a TIF extension through the

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legislature, letters of support from every taxing district impacted by the TIF is required. Mr. Schuering state the Village is going to have to work with the School to get the letter of support as the TIF will be expiring in 2027. The School Board is discussing the project this evening at their meeting. Clerk White reminded board members the TIF is expiring soon and we need to remember the Village needs some infrastructure repairs and needing financial assistance with those as well. Trustee Gammon reminded board members that the Village removed the force main repairs to the sewer plant due to lack of funding.

Resolution establishing a public hearing date and time pursuant to the local Governmental Acceptance of Credit Cards Act – Attorney Schuering reported the resolution was on the agenda last month but timing on publication was an issue so the matter was put on this month's agenda. Trustee Gammon asked if this resolution would allow the Village to accept credit cards as payment according to Credit Card Act. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Layden to approve the resolution setting 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: Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes. Resolution 2025-13 passed.

Ordinance accepting a natural gas long term supply agreement and long-term supply agreement letter of agreement with the Interstate Municipal Gas Agency, authorizing execution was presented. Trustee Gammon stated if we don't sign this agreement, we will never get a discount on natural gas. Motion was made by Ault, seconded Layden to approve the ordinance accepting a Natural Gas Long-Term Supply Agreement and Long Term Supply Agreement Letter of Agreement with the Interstate Municipal Gas Agency and authorize the execution of the agreement. Vote: Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes. Ordinance 2025-15 passed.

Finance & Budget – Trustee Layden had nothing to report at this time.

Police, Health & Safety – The topic of Training for Officer McMilleon on Sept. 23-26 in Mattoon was tabled.

Planning/Public Works- Trustee Gammon had a discussion with Superintendent Lusk regarding housing and building houses.

Grants/Funding – Trustee Mikel met with the grant writer, Fredi, who talked with MAS Engineering regarding tabling the Safe Routes to School program. The costs for the project are too expensive to pursue. Trustee Mikel is waiting for a return call from Superintendent Lusk regarding a list of future projects that grants may be able to be applied for. Trustee Mikel stated there is a grant that will need to be applied for real soon.

Beautification/Public Spaces – Trustee Ward reported the Community Garden has ripe peaches. Trustee Ward asked if the L Pond has been officially renamed as Bobcat Cove. Mayor Black feels a resolution is required to rename the area. Mayor Black is looking for contacts at Ameren to talk to about lighting at Bobcat Cove. Richard Queen reported that RCO planted 4 trees in the planters in front of Casey's. RCO has received several complaints that the trees are getting too big for the planters. RCO would like to remove the trees from the planters. Trustee Gammon suggested planting them at the L Pond (Bobcat Cove). Mr. Queen spoke to Superintendent Lusk to see if the maintenance staff would plant them. Mr. Lusk said the maintenance staff will plant the trees but not until November.

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

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

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

Old Business – Trustee Gammon requested receiving the minutes sooner than board members have received them. Trustee Gammon would like to receive the minutes within 7 days of the board meeting. Mayor Black suggested getting the transcripts of the meetings to review and make notes.

New Business – There was no new business presented.

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Guests- Guests had no comments at this time.

Motion was made by Ward, seconded by Gammon to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Mikel, yes; Layden, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 10-20-25