

**Village of Pocahontas
Board Meeting
Monday July 24, 2023 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Village President Karen Heilig. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with Susie Kovach, Jeff Weiss, Matt Hawley, David Crawford, and Adam Evans present. Tim Palen was absent.

June Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June minutes. Susie made a motion to accept the June minutes as presented. Matt 2nd – Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Bills:

July bills were presented to the Board for their approval. Matt made a motion to pay bills as written with a 2nd by Susie. Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Attorney – Ryan Connor- Mike Eberly

Mike advised that Ryan has hired another associate to assist with the handbook.

He advised that the lawnmower position, if working more than 40 hours per week, they would be paid overtime, which would be time and a half. This person can work all year, if needed. It was noted that the board was looking to see how many hours a year a part-time person could work.

With the question about charging \$1 per water user as opposed to the vehicle stickers, Mike advised that this can be do-able.

The annexation has been recorded and the certified documents should be coming shortly.

The Dollar General taxes have been updated.

The usage of an emergency texting system, we were advised to reach out to Highland to see what they use.

#1 East State St sent the \$1700 counsel funds.

ZBA

Bev read a letter advising that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on July 18, 2023 for the discussion of rezoning the recently annexed parcels. The ZBA would like to recommend that the property be rezoned from Residential to B-2. Jeff said that the property can be zoned all it wants but the lift station needs to be updated before the truck stop can come in. He said Sunny should be responsible for paying for this. Loni will see if we can get an engineer from Curry & Associates at next month's meeting. Susie made a motion to accept the ZBA recommendation and rezone the 3 parcels from Residential to B-2. Adam 2nd, roll call on motion, Jeff voted no and Susie, Matt, Dave, and Adam voting yes, motion approved.

Water/Sewer

A list was provided as to what had been done for the month.

The dump is currently full and will be locked until it can be burned safely.

Budget- the board wanted to set a limit on how much the public works can spend without coming to get permission at the next meeting. Jeff made a motion to allow up to \$7500 per month for needed equipment without needing to come to the board for approval. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

The dump truck will cost \$8500 to repair. Matt wanted to see what can be repaired just to get it running to operate so that they do not have to work out of the dump truck.

If there is an issue with the water plant, the system still calls Chris Oliver. We need to get the workers cell phones so that this can be updated.

The new lawn mower should be here at the end of September.

Building/Zoning

A resident on Simpson St has a pig and cow on their property. There is some confusion if they are in city limits. Ryan had advised Don that we could possibly include properties that are within 1.5 miles outside the limits. The Comprehensive Plan states this but we do not have records of the hearing from 1967 when the document was passed. The question is can we force them into city limits. There are other properties that this could pertain to as well.

Jim Markey sold some property on the west end of town. The buyer is planning on building a residence.

Building permit pricing – This will be worked out with the ordinance committee.

Police

Angie was involved in an accident with the Charger, while attempting a traffic stop. We received the quote for the damages (whole front bumper, clip, and license plate) and have turned it into insurance.

Angie advised that during the incident her radio wouldn't work. Which is not good in an emergency. The radio she uses is one she bought with her own money. She got 3 quotes for new radios. GTSI quoted one for \$1943.00; Warner quoted the same radio the county uses for \$1398.53; and Warner also quoted a radio like the county one but is the most up to date model for \$1659.57. Adam made a motion to purchase the radio Angie sees fit. Matt 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Health Insurance plan was going to be raised. Angie spoke with our agent and was able to change plans that will help the Village save over \$100.

Angie asked about Ordinance Violations. These need to be a set fee. She asked the Village to choose the top 5 violations and set a fee on them. Grass, abandoned vehicles, dogs at large, trash & debris, and illegal parking were the 5 chosen. Adam made a motion to have the citations fee for the items listed above be \$25 each offense. Jeff 2nd, motion approved.

ZBA Member

A new ZBA member needs to be appointed to replace Matt. Karen advised that she is open to suggestions.

Website

Don advised that the Village would benefit from having a website. Some companies will update it for a monthly maintenance fee. A company can be paid less than it would be for a full-time employee. A committee of Susie, Matt, and Adam will investigate this project.

Senior Living Center

Susie advised that the realtor said there was a potential buyer for 1 or 2 lots but no other updates yet.

September Vendor Event

Susie advised that she and Vicky were going to be meeting in the next few days. David Crawford and Joe Rakers will also be a part of this committee as they are having events on the same day. Joe is looking to have a bags tournament later in the day and that evening, a band to celebrate Lenjos 45th anniversary and possibly fireworks. The Little League will be selling the food for both the softball tournament and at the anniversary party. Susie will be calling to reserve port-a- potties and handwashing stations. She is also anticipating having a bounce house. She will have more information to come.

Karen advised that she knows it is early, but the Village will be hosting something for Halloween.

Adam made motion to go into closed session at 7:49 PM. Dave 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Adam made a motion to call the meeting back to order at 8:15PM. Dave 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Adam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16PM. Dave 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted

Loni Hensler

Pocahontas Village Clerk