Regular Meeting Village Hall Monday, April 7, 2025 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Village board opened with Acting Mayor Laura McMahon presiding. Trustees present were as follows: Roy Dean Dickey, Natalie Krause, Todd Kinzel, Chris Klingeman. Bryan Bingel was absent.

Laura Ottens-Police Chief and Travis Leroy-Part-time Police Officer were present.

Visitors present were Larry Weekley, Sara Adams, John Baker, Theresa Holloway, Annie Taylor, Johnny Taylor, Riley Goodwin, Mike Trotter-County Journal, Jim Inman, Stacy Inman, Josh Westenberger, Brandon Ottens and Amanda Leroy and kids.

Acting Mayor Laura McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Roy Dean and seconded by Natalie to approve the previous meeting minutes on March 19, 2025. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to approve the Personnel committee minutes from March 19, 2025. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).

No correspondence.

Acting Mayor Laura McMahon reported that the Community Development Block Grant we applied for to help with the retention pond was not granted. Chad has been making calls looking for new avenues to help with the funding, so the retention pond is only delayed not completely stopped. Laura informed everyone that the grants are written by the Engineers and pictures, maps and letters from citizens affected by the flooding were submitted. Laura is meeting with Chris Sinn who built the walkway by the old Subway to discuss the bridge in front of Casey’s that needs repaired. E-Recycle will be June 7, 2025, from 8am-12pm at the Old First Responders building.

Roy Dean reported that the playground equipment at the South Park has been fixed.

Natalie had no report.

Todd had no report.

Chris had no report.

Laura reported that Dan Seiber approved the following permits: Marissa Giving Garden a concrete pad for a walk-in-freezer at 307 N. Main, Joey Ruester a 15 X 20 portable shed at 923 S. Main, and Doug and Jenny Birkner a 6ft wood fence at 322 Joan Ave.

Citizens wishing to speak:

John Baker thanked the community for electing him as Trustee held on April 1, 2025.

Larry Weekley said that he believes there is a blockage somewhere between N. Main and the sewer plant or a pump is not working correctly that is causing sewer backup. Chris told him that some pumps were replaced and if he remembered correctly, they are bigger. Roy Dean told him that the ground had been smoked to find cracks to help stop the sewer backup. It was clarified that Storm water drainage and sewer are two different issues. Larry also asked when we would be getting more Police. Laura told him they would be hiring one tonight. It would give us 3-Full-time and 2-Part-time.

Sara Adams asked if a pump could be put at East Dr. when the rain is expected to be high, if the retention pond would help on East Dr. and if IDOT would help with any of the issues. She says that more culverts need to be put in. Riley said he met with Kendall and the Village has 5 pumps but 1 caught fire and 1 is on its last leg. Chris said that the Fire Department may have some they will donate. The Street workers worked for 18 hours during the storm.

Josh Westenberger said that it floods his home every time it rains and this time it knocked down his fence and destroyed his driveway. He says it takes between 6-8 minutes for the water to travel from Stoddard’s house to his. Jim Inman and himself cleaned out ditches and culverts for over an hour and he has a sump pump, and he brought in a transfer pump and still had water in his basement. He says that the Street workers are overworked. He suggested getting a Street Sweeper to help clean up debris.

Jim Inman says that additional drains and maybe a different style grate would help. The drains and grates were completely clogged.

Riley spoke on behalf of Kim Sinn who couldn’t be at the meeting. Her garage flooded and Insurance will not cover it.

Stacy Inman asked about a letter she received last year stating that culverts were going to be put in and ditches cleaned. Is this still going to be happening. Laura told her culverts have already been purchased and yes it will still be happening possible start time of May.

Ordinance Update:

American Legal Publishing sent back the Ordinances that they needed to correct. Jennifer will look over them to make sure they corrected the ones they missed last time.

New Business:

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Todd to approve Hot Mess Express a Peddlers License Renewal. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, Laura-yes, Bryan-absent. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).

A motion was made by Roy Dean and seconded by Todd to approve American Legion Post 172 a Poppy Day on May 24, 2025, at the 4-way Stop. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, Laura-yes, Bryan-absent. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to approve the Liquor License for the following: A motion was made by Roy Dean and seconded by Todd to renew the liquor licenses for the following business: Pour House, Dhara One, Inc., Casey’s General Store, American Legion Post 172, B-Jewelled LLC, Liquor N More and Triple Crown Partners I LLC. DBA Insiders. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Roy Dean to enter Executive session at 7:23 pm regarding Personnel. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Natalie-yes, Todd-yes, Bryan-absent, Laura-yes, Roy Dean-yes, Chris-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

Roll call was taken to re-establish a quorum. Roy Dean-here, Natalie-here, Todd-here, Chris-here, Bryan-absent, Laura-here.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Todd to re-enter regular session at 7:33pm. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Natalie-yes, Todd-yes, Bryan-absent, Laura-yes, Roy Dean-yes, Chris-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Todd to hire Travis Leroy as a Full-time Police Officer. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, Laura-yes, Bryan-absent. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Todd to adjourn at 7:36 pm. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Bryan).