

Regular Meeting Village Hall Tuesday September 8, 2026 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Village Board opened with Trustee John Baker presiding. Trustees present were Mike Marler, Kevin McDonald, Kenneth (Butch) Chandler, Todd Kinzel and Chris Klingeman. Mayor Riley Goodwin was absent.

Michelle Birkner-Treasurer, Clay Finley-Village Attorney and Chief Laura Ottens were also present.

John Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors were Evelyn Winter, John Jetton and Mike Trotter-County Journal.

Citizens Wishing to Speak: None

A motion was made by Butch and seconded by Kevin to approve the previous meeting minutes from August 17, 2026. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Mike to approve the August 12, 2026, personnel committee minutes. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Butch to approve the August 12, 2026, finance committee minutes. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Todd to approve the August 25, 2026, personnel committee minutes. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Chris to approve the August 31, 2026, special meeting minutes. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Butch and seconded by Todd to approve paying the bills. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

Correspondence: None

Mayor Report-None

Public Improvements, Parks, MACC Building and Streets. Kevin reported that they are wrapping things up with the park for the winter. He is meeting with Justin for a few things with the street department.

John -Public Safety, Police, Ambulance, Nuisance, Zoning and E.S.D.A. John reported that he is advertising for bids for the asbestos abatement and demolition of the old Fire House. Bids will be opened at the October 6, 2026, meeting. John and Kendall visited the KWD and New Athens water treatment plants. John and Kendall met with Aaron Tebbe of Vikings Industrial Tanks to discuss internal and external cleaning of the of the water tower. Preliminary design for the retention pond was received. Discussed recovery of mowing charges with Village Attorney-Clay Finley and he believes that if we place a lien it will survive. The neighbors adjacent to the pumpkin patch would like the overgrown field area next to the pumpkin patch cut. Weeds around the "Marissa" sign needs to be trimmed back.

Butch-Utilities-Water and Sewer. Butch reported that the fire hydrant has been replaced. Butch would like to send plans to a company in O'Fallon for contactors to make bids. He is hoping this will give us more bids on projects. Michelle is contacting the IRWA to get help with water to keep the water rates from rising.

Chris-Finance, Ordinances, Personnel and Budget. Chris reported that the personnel committee had met a few times, and they are in the process of changing the personnel policy.

Todd-Beautification. Todd reported that weeds are getting a bit out of control and will be cleaned up soon. September Yard of the Month goes to Kay Jetton.

Mike-Landfill- Mike had no report.

Building & Zoning: No report.

Old Business:

Kevin made a motion with a second by Mike to table approving a new sewer/septic for a new home build for Caren & Calvin Touchette. The board would like Village Attorney Clay Finley to look into the County codes to see if there are any restrictions about water lines crossing over two parcels owned by the same person. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Mike to postpone purchasing another truck for the street workers. Butch said that we will have plenty of plow trucks once the new truck arrives in October. The truck can be put in the budget for next year. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

New Business:

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Kevin to approve the Masonic Lodge to hold a paper drive at the 4-way stop on September 18, 2026, from 3pm-6pm. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Butch and seconded by Chris to approve a liquor License for the American Legion on October 10, 2026. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A first reading of the resolution authorizing an IDOT local public agency agreement for state participation for roadway approach improvements at the W. Lyons St. railroad crossing. John noted that this was previously passed in 2023 and not completed. The 2026 project cost may be higher, but it must be done.

A motion was made by Butch and seconded by Chris to table approving the ADA compliant doors at the Village Hall. Butch is waiting on another bid. Motion passed 6-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Butch and seconded by Mike to approve purchasing a float assembly for the sewer plant from Komline for \$7,919.35. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Butch to approve Watson Excavating to clean out ditches 1 and 4. The project should take 2-3 days to complete. Ditches 2 and 3 will be cleaned out after Lehman's harvest their corn. Ditches are cleaned out every 10 years. John has received permission from all but a few citizens to clean out the ditches. Only ditches that permission has been given will be cleaned. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Kevin-yes, Mike -yes, Kenneth-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-yes, John -yes.

A motion was made by Butch and seconded by Mike to table approving the solicitor licenses for the applications to be completed. The applications turned in were incomplete. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 1-nay.

Discussion was held regarding an ordinance for administration fees for crash reports. Chief Ottens told the board that beginning January 2027 all crash reports will be held electronically, and a \$5.00 fee will be charged when one is requested. She would like the ordinance to reflect the new charge. Village Attorney Clay Finley will draw up a new ordinance to be read at a future meeting and then approved.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Butch to table hiring Sonny Laramore full time. The Village must advertise for the position. Motion passed. 6-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:40pm by Todd and was seconded by Kevin. Motion passed. 6-ayes, 0-nayes.