

VILLAGE OF KINCAID
115 CENTRAL AVE. KINCAID, IL. 62540
TIME- 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor, Robert Morris- 6:00 p.m

Roll call was taken by Clerk, Stephanie Brown-
Gibson-here, Paso-here, Lawrence-here, Keafer-here, Dees-here, Nelson-here

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of minutes from February's meeting- Motion was made by Trustee Keafer, Second was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.
- Jim Baker (Christian County Sheriff's Office) to speak about patrolling- Baker spoke that he took over as chief deputy about a year ago. He had been going around to all the communities to get his name out there and leaving his information as well. He has been doing this to reach out to each community in regards to any needs that they might possibly have and he is offering his availability to assist whenever the need arises. He spoke about what we could do to strengthen the relationships between him and other communities in regards to any needs or events that may come up in each community. Each village has issues with officers coming in and leaving. He also spoke in regards to extra patrol for the communities. He stated that he reached out to Chief Mathon in regards to him having to leave because of being deployed and having coverage while he is gone and when officer Merker leaves as well. He is offering up his services with regards to events and making sure they have someone available to assist when we don't have any officers at the time. When can call the county when the need arises. Attorney Rahar spoke up about the commitment with Bulpitt which ends on the 17th of this month. He stated about not having the manpower to patrol over in Bulpitt, and he also spoke about the intergovernmental agreement. Bulpitt is in the county jurisdiction and then the county would go out if there is a call. Chief Baker spoke that when we are down officer's here, that he would just need to know a head of time possibly before 10pm. Chief Baker just wants us to know he is available. Trustee Nelson asked who we could contact if a situation would arise. Chief Baker stated that he left his contact information, and we could reach out to his office, and they would come to help.
- Special guest Will Moran with Allcare American-savings on ameren electric- Gary Carroll, who works alongside of Will, spoke in regards to helping people lower their energy bills. The company's purpose is to help people with their electric bills. They help with electric, gas and solar for commercial and residential. He spoke about the price difference with paying on the KW usage and how much lower their price is with regards to the KW usage. In regard to the Solar Panels, they can lease them out to customers and essentially you would be trading your Ameren

bill to the solar panels instead. He stated that it would be around 10-15 years of no payments and they you will save money in the long run. The company is so large that they are nationwide. They can help customers in chain stores and restaurants too. Soon, they will have a program that can help out low income customers, as well as, non-profit organizations. With everything possibly going to electric soon, it is essential to start thinking about solar power energy. When you look at the predictions, it just keeps going up as far as rates go. He stated that he wants to look at a package for our town and village regarding aggregation. They would need to know how many meters and usage we have in our town. He is positive that they will be able to help us out in regard to the electric usage.

- Special guest, Ron with Chastain & Associates- Ron spoke about updates on some of the projects that the village is doing. The sewer project has been waiting for funding from the EPA. He spoke about the pumps, lift pumps and lagoons. He spoke about upgrades to these pumps and with regard to cleaning of the pumps. Principal forgiveness has become available for this project which would be about 30% and that would also be around \$329,000 for the forgiveness. The village has already passed this, so he just wanted to make sure that we want to go ahead with the project. He also updated us on the water main replacement project. He spoke about the water main for Bulpitt and spoke of permits that have been signed and that it would take 60-90 day with the EPA for these. He also spoke about the permit regarding the Railroad. The project has been submitted to the EPA and the budget would be allocated for this physical year which would begin in July. This particular project is subject to 50% forgiveness, but they will not know anything till around June of this year. No action from the board at this time but he just wanted to give us an update.

- Harold Livingston, speak in regards to the ordinance violation of chickens- Harold wanted to throw out some statistics in regards to 90% of the mammals we consume are chickens. He stated it is necessary to have them and it is our patriotic duty. He stated that he knows he cannot fight city hall with regards to this issue, but he will leave it up to the board to decide. In Chicago and other big cities, they allow people to have 3 chickens but no roosters. He wanted to thank the board for allowing him to speak.

- Visitors:

VISITORS- A PERSON SHALL BE PERMITTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS OFFICIALS UNDER THE RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE VILLAGE OF KINCAID (2 MINUTES PER PERSON) 5ILCS 120/2.06g

A citizen of the community spoke up and stated that he had no issue with allowing someone to have chickens in town, especially if you are getting eggs out of it. He stated that maybe just having around 6 chickens in town would not be that bad. Harold Livingston spoke up and stated that he is trying to help the community out with the cost of living, especially with the cost of eggs going up all the time.

Robin Beloit(another citizen in the community) spoke up and that stated to the board that she did provide documentation in regard to the 2 vehicles that she received ordinance violations for

in the past. The document in fact stated that these two vehicles are in still in probate with the estate. Chief Mathon was shown this document as proof that they are in fact still in probate.

- Old Business:

- Revising Ordinance to having chickens in town- Trustee Gibson stated that he wants to know what people are going to do with the waste and where they are going to dispose of it. He wanted to know if there would be workers in the community to clean it up. A few citizens in the community spoke up and stated that sometimes people use the waste for their gardens. Gibson wants to leave the ordinance the way it is now. Trustee Gibson made a motion to leave the ordinance as is, second was made by Trustee Keafer. Nelson- yes, Dees- yes, Keafer- yes, Lawrence- no, Paso- stay, Gibson- yes.

- New Contract with Leeshire:

Foremen, Mark Wolfe spoke about this previously in another meeting and stated that Leeshire sewer contract was up but that the water isn't up till 2025. Leeshire wants to make them both together and put them on the same contract for 2 years at a time. There will be no extra money or anything but just to make sure they are both together on the same contract. Motion was made by Trustee Keafer, Second by Trustee Lawrence. All Ayes.

- Fixing RV spots and boat dock out at the lake:

Trustee Gibson asked Mark Wolfe if he had purchased any rock yet for out at the lake, but Mark stated that he has not purchased any at this time. 150 ton of rock is what they are needing and with the lumber and rock they would probably need to spend around \$5,000 to fix everything. Trustee Paso spoke about some of the spots out at the lake needing some definite attention to. She stated that some of the spots just don't look very appealing to the public. Trustee Nelson stated that hopefully we can get more rock out there, especially for when dirt riders come in and making things look better overall. Trustee Nelson made a motion to go ahead and spend the money to fix up the lake lots, second motion was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

- Water Increase:

Foreman Mark Wolfe stated that Taylorville raised us to 2% this year. We originally thought we hadn't raised the rates, but we did in 2021. Treasurer Beverly Merano stated that right now we should not be doing anything in regard to raising the rates because we are already looking at it being raised each year. This is going to be tabled till the next meeting. Trustee Lawrence stated that he just wants to make sure that we stay on top of this for each year. Motion to table this was made by Trustee Keafer, second was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- New software/account to enable payments with debit/credit cards:

Clerk, Stephanie Brown stated that she handed out to the trustee's several different options from several different companies that offered payments with credit/debit cards. The village already uses Paystar for consumers to pay their water bill payments online. Paystar wanted to charge us \$35/mo to add an extra account to receive other payments but would not be providing us with a credit card reader/machine. There were other options with 3 other

companies including, G-Works, Converge and Zero Fees Processing. The one company that had the best overall option was Zero Fees Processing. This would enable us to accept payment with credit/debit card for all other things that we take payments for in the office and also out of the office. They will be providing us with the machine that would be accessible to the consumer when they come in to make their payments. There is no set up fee, no monthly fee, only that the consumer will be charged 4% on top of their bill, no matter if it is a small amount or large amount. We will be able to have other options for the consumer since we have gone cashless. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson to go ahead with this company. A second was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

- Attorney's report:

Attorney Jared Rahar stated that in regards to the spam FOIA request that had seemed sketchy between the mayor, chief mathon and the clerk. It seemed to him that for all attention purposes this has been handled. He also stated that he and Beverly Merano had turned over documents that were needed by Chastain & Associates.

- New Business:

- Grant for Led and Copper Inventory:

Ron from Chastain & Associates spoke about the grant for this. The village had applied for a grant last year and he stated that the village is required to submit an inventory for the copper and led. The EPA is offering some grant money to help cover the cost. For the village, they would be able to ask up to \$30,000 to help cover part of the cost. He stated that it is simple to renew and apply for. Ron just wanted to make sure the village was still interested in applying for this. We had applied for it in the past but was unable to attain it. There were a few issues with documents that needed submitted through the GATA portal, but the clerk is in contact with Chastain & Associates to get the portal updated. Motion to resubmit the grant was made by Trustee Nelson, Second by Trustee Keafer. All Ayes.

- Water Bills for Oakwood Park: Foreman Mark Wolfe in regard to Oakwood being a mess at this time. Apparently, the meters were all tied into one right now. This system belongs to Loy Development. There is a master meter that is read. Mark stated that he spoke to Loy Development and that he would like for us to read the one meter and just send him one bill instead of several bills for the other homes. Every bill gets a surcharge, so we would have to recalculate the surcharge since it will be down to one meter, instead of several. The new meters that will be coming soon this year, will be more than capable of reading all the meters and putting it into the master meter. We would need to draft up a contract for an agreement with Loy Development. Motion was made by Trustee Lawrence, second by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Discuss overall payment on boat stickers:

Foreman Mark Wolfe stated that right now the boat stickers are \$15 for in town and \$25 for out of town. He stated that we just need to make it \$25 overall for everyone and not two different fees. A motion was made to keep it at \$25 overall by Trustee Nelson, second was made by Trustee Lawrence. All Ayes.

- Discuss about property behind Cliff Mansfield in regards to Easement issues:

Foreman Mark Wolfe stated that Cliff is wanting to build a shed by garden street and he wants to go across the alley with them. He wants to buy a strip out there to put the shed, but it is part of the easement. There was talk about selling that part to him. Attorney Rahar stated he doesn't seem to think there would be a problem selling that part to him but we would need to look into it further. Trustee Nelson stated he reached out to Cliff about the possibility of selling the carwash, but he stated that at this time he does not have a buyer. Mark Wolfe stated that there are no utilities down the easement line. Mark also stated that if it would have been in town, we would have to say no to this. Attorney Rahar wants to look into this before we do anything with regards to this matter. A motion was made to table this till the next meeting. Motion was by Trustee Lawrence, second was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

- Discuss what to do with the tablets given to all the Trustee's:

Trustee Gibson stated about donating them to the schools and Mayor Robert Morris agreed to this. The Clerk stated that all the Trustee's would need to bring all of them in to the office to wiped out and cleaned before donating them to the schools. A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence, second was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Buying and Selling property in town:

Trustee Lawrence stated that in the past we have had properties with homes that have had back taxes that need to be paid and we have put liens on some of them. He spoke mainly about the property that is behind the Methodist church and that we paid to have it cleaned up and that the roof is falling in. There was a deal with the Methodist church before to purchase the property for \$6,000, and that the church was going to buy it so they could use it for a parking lot. Trustee Lawrence question was, that if it goes up for bid, can the city buy it before that happens. Then if the city buys it, can we turn around and sell it to the church. Attorney Rahar wanted to know if we are wanting to turn a profit or just to break even. Trustee Lawrence spoke about just trying to get our money back from putting the lien on the property. Attorney Rahar doesn't see why this would be an issue, but we would still need to look into all the legalities of doing this. Attorney Rahar stated that we would need to acquire more information regarding the property. Trustee Lawrence stated that he would look more into this and go by the courthouse to see what information he could gather. A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to table this till the next meeting. Second was made by Trustee Keafer. All Ayes.

- Approval of bills:

Motion was made by Trustee Keafer, second was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

- Zoning Report:

Trustee Lawrence stated that he only had to issue one building permit on a fence.

- Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Beverly Merano stated that she handed out the report to all the Trustee's. She also talked about the water CD which has matured, and it now is at \$103,000. She called several

places to see what kind of interest rates are available. Midland Bank stated that they would match First National Bank in Taylorville. A motion was made to keep it local here in town by Trustee Keafer, a second was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Clerk's Report:

Stephanie Brown, the village clerk stated that she had already spoke earlier regarding the credit card processing program and it was agreed upon. She also stated that things are getting more organized, structured and getting things updated with regards to the water bills and being sent out in a timely manner. She is also learning all the ins and outs of different things from the village but is doing her best to make things more manageable.

- Police Report:

Officer Merker handed everyone a printout of the reports for calls and for bills.

- Foreman's Report:

Foreman Mark Wolfe state that they had replaced 3 water meters and the guys had picked up a lot of limbs from the storm damage, as well as, doing locates, especially with CTI coming in and making sure that they don't hit anything. Mark and CJ Vacker did get signed up for the water and sewer classes. Mark's sewer classes won't start till June though. Trustee Lawrence asked Mark regarding getting in touch with someone about the solar panels. He stated that the 20th of this month there will be a witness test for the solar panels.

- President's Report:

Mayor Robert Morris stated that at this time he has nothing to report.

- Trustee's Report and comments:

Trustee Keafer asked where we were at on the Hobbs property. Foreman Mark Wolfe stated that the property had been cleaned up and it looks so much better now. Trustee Nelson spoke in regards to all the upcoming events and gave out the dates again for each event this year. He also spoke about needing volunteer for each event. He asked again about the waiver for the kitchen at the park. There was discussion about requiring the person to have insurance to rent the kitchen just to cover ourselves. Trustee Lawrence spoke about possibly making a contract for renting it and general liability with regards to insurance. There was discussion about charging \$250 for deposit and \$250 for the rental plus insurance. Trustee Lawrence asked about possibly setting a town hall meeting to have a representative come from CTI to speak to our residents about what services they are offering and to answer any questions that people might have. There was discussion about franchise fee with CTI and if we have one with them. This is something that the clerk will be looking into. Trustee Lawrence spoke about the railroad agreement. They sent a contract over to look at but Lawrence wants to have this set out as a discussion for the next meeting. This has been ongoing for the last 4 years that we have been cutting it and paying for it to. Lawrence state that we have spent over \$7,000 a year on this issue with the railroad. He is hoping that he will have a better answer for the board at the next meeting. Trustee Nelson spoke about a young girl here in town by the name of Karen Beavers who had collapsed on the side of the road and her husband had pulled over and tried doing CPR

and that all kinds of cars had just been driving by without stopping. One young lady had stopped to help them out and she possibly saved Karen's life. Jessica Baird was the one that had stopped to help along with Officer Merker who was called out to the scene. Karen wanted to recognize them regarding the situation which had happened back in October.

A motion was made to go into closed session by Trustee Lawrence, Second by Keafer. The time was 7:30 p.m.

- Closed Session:

Meeting to discuss litigation when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular body has been filed and is pending in a court 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Roll call- Gibson-here, Paso-here, Lawrence-here, Keafer-here, Dees-here, Nelson-here.

Motion to come out of closed session. Motion made by Trustee Keafer, second by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes. The time was 7:40 p.m.

- Adjournment:

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Trustee Keafer, second made by Trustee Dees. All Ayes. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes done by Village Clerk
Stephanie Brown