

Village of Joy

200 West Main Street, Post Office Box 265
Joy, Illinois 61260-0265
309-584-4127

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Village Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 16, 2022 by Village President Larry Hunt. The meeting was held in Village Hall, 200 W. Main Street, Joy IL.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll was called by Village President Joe Hunt.

Trustees present: Elaine Anderson, Paul Hampton, Don Wilken, Rory Conway. Noah Livermore-Absent
Village Clerk, Gwen Pritchett was present.

Public Present: Annette Doonan-MCHD, Chad McCleary-Ion, Kasi Henshaw-MC Board; Prosperity, Erica Knisley-Visit Mer Co, Justin Reese-Giffin Engineering, Judd Giffin-Giffin Engineering.

Kasi Henshaw-MC Board Prosperity, addressed the Village Board of Trustees. Kasi is in charge of Economic Development-Strategic Plan and have it financed by summer of 2023. Her goal is to establish tourism and Marketing. MERCOCO was established to promote assets in Mercer County. MERCOCO visits Villages and towns in Mercer County to offer assistance in promoting them.

Erica Knisley is the Program Manager of Visit MERCOCO. Erica would like to help promote tourism with the Village of Joy. There will be a round table for Village Mayors at a later date.

Erica, Program Manager is researching Mercer County events and getting people into the community's. Erica suggested making The Village of Joy identity all about Christmas. Erica suggestions were Christmas Light contests for cash prizes, Christmas tree farm, a Christmas stamp and ornament. Merco will help to promote the Christmas Ornament.

Erica and Kasi left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

The dead tree at 209 E. Center Street was discussed. The tree is not on Village of Joy property. Once again the IDOT will be contacted to establish ownership. The Homeowner was asked, but did not attend the meeting to discuss the tree. The dead tree is very large and hangs over the highway. Branches have been falling. The tree is a hazard. The discussion is tabled to collect more information.

Annette Doonan Program Director with the Mercer County Health Dept., addressed the Village Board of Trustees to discuss their services and requested a \$250 donation. The Health Dept. received a 2 year grant that provides women with help with preventative health care in Mercer County. A survey was taken and determined that 54% of women in Mercer County have no primary care. At the end of the 2 year grant the program must be self-sustaining. That is why the Mercer County Health Department is requesting the donation. The \$250 donation would cover, round trip transportation for two women from Mercer County to travel to the Quad Cities to get health care. The department has a Bake Sale each year to raise money. The department is going out into the community to let people know about their services.

Chad McCleary with ION addressed the Village Board of Trustees.

Brad Weeks has been dealing with sewer on May and Washington. Root killer is the next step. Maybe have someone

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come in with a root cutter if needed. The problem is a city problem. Will discuss the situation with Illinois Rural Water Association. The pump in well #2 was pulled 5 years. It is not too unreasonable to have to replace a pump every 5 years.

Some of the parts that were installed 5 years ago were plastic at the Village of Joys request. Stainless is the way to go. The sub cable was undersized to the VFD. The check valve was bad. The sand separator can be omitted but not suggested. The motor should be new not rebuilt and made from stainless instead of plastic. The price of well #2 repair is \$38,993.00 with Cahoy Pump Service. Peerless and Gingerich may be contacted for a price, but will not be very much different than Cahoy. If another company does the work, the drop pipe would have to be collected from Cahoy. Chad has good results with Cahoy. The savings would not be enough to get another bid. Chad does not feel Cahoy is taking advantage of the Village of Joy with pricing. The Village of Joy has a connection with the City of Aledo's water, so everything will be ok until the repairs are finished. The check valve needs to be replaced.

Judd Giffin and Justin Reese of Giffin Engineering arrived at the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Chad McCleary would like to treat well #2 with caustic soda. This will sterilize the well and take care of what the chlorine does not take care of. The transmission line does not pass.

On Cahoy's proposal it calls for repair/chase pipe threads for 17 pipe for \$1,920.00. This is a normal procedure and cost because they get gummed up and by doing so the pipes go back together well. Chad will ask Cahoy about the mark-up on the san separator.

After sand separator information is collected, Don Wilken suggested voting over the phone. The Village can always shop around the next time a well goes down.

Nitrate tests were done today. The flows are good. Chad is still dealing with the meter for the treatment plant.

Judd Giffin introduced his new employee, Justin Reese.

Judd Giffin and Justin Reese of Giffin Engineering addressed the Village Board of Trustees. Judd gave the Village of Joy a box of information that was given to him by Mark Heater. Judd has not spoken to Michael Wallace with USDA, lately. Justin has a projector presentation.

Tiny house- Attorney has not contacted the Village of Joy with an update. The Village Clerk was asked to call the attorney for an update.

Giffin – The projector presentation was of the GIS Map of Joy. Information can be added such as photos and notes. The GIS is not a part of the project. Judd Giffin did this on his own for the Village of Joy. The map is a part of Diamondmaps.com. There is a \$20 membership fee that has to be paid to access information. Diamond Maps is very user friendly.

The water tower was built close to the budget.

Water treatment plant was the biggest headache.

Total project is \$3,778,948.50.

First engineering cost were to put together the original documents to get funding. Engineering is based on a percentage of the project that was supposed to be 16 months. The project went way beyond that. After October of 2021 the

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engineering cost went over the basic services.

Outstanding is Valley retainage.

Judd Giffin gave the Village of Joy a check for \$2,500.00 for a part of the Valley invoice.

Judd Giffin gave the Village of Joy his invoice for services for \$150,850.46. Giffin Engineering has not been paid for a year and a half. The invoice still needs USDA review and approval.

Judd Giffin said contingency has been spent. Valley Construction as made the contract go over. Gary Davis said earlier there was contingency left, but there is not. Judd is sharing the invoice, not looking for approval tonight. Farnsworth group has been helping out with engineering. They are more expensive that Giffin Engineering. The main issue is the \$52,000.00. Valley Construction has created a lot of difficulty. The \$52,000.00 may have to be paid by the Village of Joy. Judd Giffin stated Valley can be charged up to \$500 per day for liquidated damages, but hard to collect to the fullest extent.

Village of Joy will need to discuss with USDA. Judd suggested a conference call. Village President Larry Hunt can do a conference on a Thursday at 2:30. Judd will reach out with Michael at UDSA to get an appointment scheduled. Most of the board can attend. Judd will let the Village Clerk know when the conference will be.

One half of the engineering bill is for Farnsworth Group. There was extra work done.

Cahoy Pump-wait.

Village President Joe Hunt discusses: The lights are repaired on the dump truck. Will install LED lights too. Everything else is ready. Still need chains for the truck.

Judd Giffin and Justin Reese with Giffin Engineering left the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Chad McCleary said the treatment plant is way overdone. He also said the electronic mapping (Diamond Maps) is a good idea.

The Village of Joy will need to begin thinking about the water quality at the lagoon. The effluent water quality is terrible. In the future it will have to be addressed. The ammonia levels are very high. The state of Illinois is currently behind, but a change is coming. May need to apply for a future grant for the lagoon.

Chad McCleary left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Village Christmas lights – Brad and Village President Joe Hunt plan to put up the Village Christmas lights hopefully next week. There are some flags that need to be adjusted. May get actual flag poles.

Brad Weeks welded the snow plow and painted it. The culvert in the park needs to be filled in. Will discuss with Brad Weeks. Village Trustee Don Wilken discussed, there is a budget for repairs and Brad Weeks does not have to ask for every repair, unless it is a major repair that costs a lot of money.

Need an update on the roof hatches on the pump houses.

The heater in pump house is fixed.

Motioned by Don Wilken to approve the Cahoy invoice for \$4,872.00 for pulling well #2. Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

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After review, Rory Conway made the motion to approve the October 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Elaine Anderson 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "yes" vote.

After review, Elaine Anderson made the motion to approve the November 2022 paid and unpaid expenditures. Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

October 2022 P&L report and Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed.

Gwen Pritchett asked for few days off- approved by Village President Larry Hunt.

The Backhoe needs to be serviced – Village President Larry Hunt and the Village Trustees are trying to get this figured out. Village President discussed Brad doesn't mind doing the work if he knows what to do correctly. Village President can order filters at cost. Discussed the possibility of asking advice from Ernie Dillie.

Village Wide Christmas Light Contest – Everything will remain as usual. The judging will be December 13 & 14th of December 2022. After discussion it was decided for Roy and Tricia Conway and Village President Larry and Diana Hunt to judge this year.

Stop sign discussion was tabled until the December 21st meeting.

Park Project – Still need more rubber mulch. The park could also use some new equipment. There is a broken swing that needs to be replaced. It was suggested to look into purchasing a mommy and me swing. The play area could use some benches. Some of the broken sidewalk needs to be taken out. A work day in the park will be discussed at a later date to work on sidewalk tear-out. Will try to find somewhere to take the sidewalk concrete for fill. Some sidewalks will be replaced. Elaine said Aaron may be interested in concrete for fill.

Village President Larry Hunt pre-approved the \$2,000 tree removal bid for 3 trees from Pauley Construction. After discussion, Village Trustee Don Wilken made the motion to approve the \$2,000 Pauley Construction tree removal bid. Village Trustee Elaine Anderson 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "yes" vote.

After discussion, Village Trustee Don Wilken made the motion to close the CDBG Checking Account that was used for the new Water Tower Grant and open the Special Street Work Restricted Account that will be used for the Operation and Maintenance loan repayment to the General Fund. Village Trustee Elaine Anderson 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "yes" vote.

The Mercer County Mitigation Plan was discussed. Next meeting is in February. There is a packet of information to be filled out by the Village of Joy. Add information about storm damage to the water bills if possible to establish a time line for the Mercer County Mitigation reports from the Village of Joy.

Mercer County School Building-Joy

Discussed possible uses for the building. Storage Units

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Motioned by Village Trustee Don Wilken to approve \$200 Christmas Bonuses to the following Village of Joy employees: Brad Weeks, Pam Westfall and Gwen Pritchett. Village Trustee Elaine Anderson 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

The 2023 Village Board Meeting dates were reviewed and discussed. No vote was needed.

Delinquent Report was reviewed and discussed.

The 2023 Christmas Ornament artist will be given a free ornament and Christmas card to thank her for her contribution.

The finance Committee will have a short meeting before the December 21, 2022 meeting to discuss the upcoming Tax Levy Ordinance. Don will contact everyone for the date and time.

Tax Levy will be on the December 21 Board Meeting Agenda.

Don and Marcia Wilken will run the Peoples Party Caucus at Village Hall.

Cliff and Elaine Anderson will run the Citizens Party Caucus at the Joy Fire Station.

Village Trustee Rory Conway made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Village Trustee Don Wilken 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "yes" vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gwen Pritchett
Joy Village Clerk