

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Village Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2023 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 Larry Hunt.

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

Public Present: Kristy Lee, Chad McCleary, Jason Huston, Judd Giffin, Justin Reese, Alina Kramer

Village Trustee Don Wilken discussed the budget changes for the new fiscal year's Appropriation Ordinance. New line item for Christmas Ornaments was created. After discussion: Village Trustee Don Wilken made to motion to pass and approve Ordinance #1, Series 2023, Noah Livermore 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The following vote was taken: Elaine Anderson-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Don Wilken-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Village Trustee Don Wilken discussed the change to be made to the Village of Joy's Building Permit. The updated building permit will be ready by the May 17, 2023 Regular Village Board Meeting. No vote will be needed.

The zoning issues that were discussed in a previous board meeting will be addressed by the newly elected Board of Trustees.

The newly elected Board were sworn in: Village President Larry Hunt, 2 year unexpired trustee Jason Huston, 4 year trustee Kristy Lee, 4 year trustee Rory Conway, 4 year trustee Patsy Peterson

Everyone thanked Don Wilken and Elaine Anderson for their time served.

Elaine Anderson and Don Wilken left the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Village President Larry Hunt welcomed the new trustees to the Village Board.

Chad McCleary/ION discussed the April 2023 Council Report

Everything went fine with the Well 2 reinstall. A chemical treatment was ran through the raw water main. We have since passed two separate rounds of sampling. Everything was a success with regards to finally dealing with the bacteria problem.

Well 2 is unable to communicate remotely with the water plant. ION has gone through every setting they can find and have not been able to get it to run in automatic. Britton Electronics will stop by and look at it when they come to Aledo in the next few weeks. Otherwise, things are running fine at the water plant. Updated service line inventory to the EPA has been submitted. ION has been working on CCR for 2022. There is high flows at the lagoon because of the high rains. Wastewater System is currently working great.

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Village Trustee Paul Hampton asked if the two wells will alternate when well #2 is up and running. Chad McCleary said when corrected, the system will work as designed. The wells will alternate. The Village of Joy has a connection to the City of Aledo in case of emergency situations.

If a well fails to start an alarm goes to ION.

There are still 3 residential lead service lines here in the Village. It will be expected that Village of Joy works on replacing the 3 lead lines and the government will reimburse the Village of Joy.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore asked if Chad had any idea how much Britton Electronic will charge to make a site visit. The program itself is working great. The warranty was up in October of 2022. Site visit could be \$700. Repair costs will be determined by the problem.

Chad McCleary explained: Peroxide was used to shock the well instead of caustic soda because it causes less damage. Wells are tested monthly.

Another round of tests will be taken before well #2 is on the system.

Village President Larry Hunt said the Village of Joy appreciates everything ION has done. There were no more questions or comments for Chad McCleary, so he left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Building Permit updates were discussed. The new Building Permit will state any structure over 400 square feet has to be on a concrete foundation. The building permits will be more transparent if this statement is added.

Zoning Ordinance states: fences can be built on the property line. The Zoning Ordinance will not be changed.

Ernie Dillie would like permission to put a 20x8 storage container on his commercial property on West Street. The storage container may be a temporary situation. Having a storage container on commercial property is permitted in the Village of Joy. There is no timeline.

Village President Larry Hunt and his wife Diana are purchasing a new basketball hoop, basketballs, footballs and sidewalk chalk for the park. There will be a chained container in the park for these items. If all goes well, there will be more items added. This will not cost the Village, it will be donated by Larry and Diana. This information will be added to the Village of Joy's Facebook page and to the bulletin on the water bills. Donations are welcome.

Village Trustee Paul Hampton discussed leaving the park bathrooms unlocked during the day. It was decided to leave the bathrooms unlocked during the day.

The LED lights at the pavilion will not be locked down. Village Trustee Noah Livermore suggested having the lights on a sensor. There is a light on a pole at the park that needs attention. It flickers and it is leaning.

Village President Larry Hunt wants people to be able to use and enjoy the park.

The Regular Board Meeting Minutes for March 2023 were reviewed and discussed. The adjourn time needs to be corrected for 5:52 to 6:52. After discussion, Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to approve the March 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Rory Conway 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

The March 30, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed and discussed. After discussion, Village Trustee Paul Hampton made the motion to approve March 30, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Patsy Peterson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

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The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

After review, Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to approve April 2023 paid and unpaid expenditures. Rory Conway 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

March 2023 Balance Sheet and P&L Profit and Loss Budget Performance was reviewed and discussed. No vote or action needed. No questions.

Giffin Engineering-Judd Giffin, Justin Reese and Alina Kramer arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Judd Giffin thanked the Village Board for passing Resolution #1, 2023, Resolution on Buildzoom Website Post. The resolution was a big deal and helped at the last Rutland meeting.

Judd gave each Village Board Member a packet of information to discuss along with an invoice. The packet included explanations on how and why things are charged. Judd feels he has the final report the way the USDA wants to see it,

Judd will submit the final report to USDA for approval. The amount that Valley Construction is requesting is \$82,000, but not necessarily going to receive. The final changes were \$104, 166.98. Judd is sharing the information with the Village of Joy before it is submitted to USDA. The price went up due to Farnsworth being called in on the project and Mark Heater wanted a photo timeline. Giffin Engineering additional services were calculated after their basic services contract was fulfilled. Giffin's basic services were for 28 months, but went over.

There were several items changed that were not approved by the Village Board. Those items will be discussed and considered for final payment. The Village Board was not always made aware of the changes and problems. Both parties agree they want the project correct and completed.

The Joy Village has to take action first before USDA approve the final payments.

Judd asked if there were any questions. Judd said he will come back to the Village of Joy and have a sit down meeting. May need to call a special meeting. The report will go to the USDA tomorrow, Thursday, April 20, 2023.

All Giffin Engineering staff left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Rory Conway asked if there was email records supporting the fact that Mark Heater tried to contact Judd Giffin and Judd Giffin was not getting back to him concerning problems that were taking place. There would only be records of emails from the Village of Joy. There is no record of personal emails. The email records will be checked.

The Village Clerk explained the account transactions for the May 1<sup>st</sup> USDA Loans 91-02 and 91-04 interest and principal payments (\$47,708.54). Check #8843 Operations and Maintenance checking for \$50,000 written to the Water System Project Account, check #139 Water System Project Account for \$47,708.54 to the Water Project Loan Account, to cover the May 1, 2023 USDA Rural Development loans 91-02 and 91-04. Interest and Principal payment of \$47,708.54. The USDA payment reminder dated March 16, 2023 was included for review.

Mercer County Crisis Center's request for donation, (Blue Kid) Sponsor was reviewed and discussed. It was discussed and decided not to donate this year. No vote was taken. The board would appreciate if Mercer County Crisis Center contact the Village of Joy earlier than they do.

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Delinquent accounts reviewed and discussed. If accounts are not paid by end of month, they will be shut off. Only one was turned off in March. The home is in foreclosure. The deposit will be deducted from the balance

MERCO is similar to Mercer County Better Together. Village Clerk Gwen Pritchett had a meeting with MERCO today at 1:00 p.m. MERCO can help Village of Joy with an economic development plan at no cost. MERCO is not considered a non-profit. MCBT's economic development plan will cost the Village of Joy.

Village of Joy works with MCBT on the joy Park Project. The park project was funded by a grant from the Looser-Flake Foundation. MERCO is funded through private investors and grants.

Kasi with MERCO suggest the Village of Joy work on a list of what the Village of Joy would like to see happen with economic development.

Jen Hammerlinck does grant writing for MERCO. Kasi with MERCO suggested the Village of Joy make a list of grants they would like to apply for. Kasi will connect the Village of joy with Jen by email, so the Village of Joy can discuss grants with her.

There are business Grants available too. Kyle McEwen with MCBT is who works on business grants.

MERCO is planning a Fall Event for Mercer County, The Event is called Ride 17 Fall Music Fest, on October 14, 2023. The Event will include Mercer County towns that are situation on Route 17. MERCO applied for and received a grant for the project. Village of Joy can participate in the event. MERCO will help pay for the entertainment. Village of Joy will need to provide a place for entertainment and sponsors for the bands so MERCO can work through the sponsors to pay the bands.

Village of Joy does not have to participate, but would bring people into the Village if they do. It might be a way to start the Joy Fest again. Possible sponsors are Village of Joy, Fire Department, churches, Westmer One Stop. There will be more planning down the road. The event could be a good time to promote the 2023 Christmas Ornament.

Merco may also be able to help with economic ideas for the school house building.

Village Trustee Patsy Peterson thinks a quilt shop would go over good in the Village. They seem to be very successful in other small towns.

Village of Joy has 1 Airbnb. There are several in Aledo.

It was discussed that there are several possibilities for the Village of Joy and will continue meeting with MERCO and MCBT.

The Village can be a destination if we work at it

The Village will start making a list of ideas for MERCO.

Solar Update: Village of Joy KWH usage has been determined and all information has been sent to Aaron Shoot with Utopian Power for solar proposal.

Old railroad property by the burn pile was discussed. It is unknown who actually owns the property.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to enter into executive session at 7:09 p.m. Rory Conway 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to leave executive session at 7:40 p.m. Rory Conway 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

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Rory Conway discussed the Facebook missing cat post from a resident in the Village of Joy. The owner had a cats that was missing. One of the cats have been found. Pets are not supposed to run loose in the Village of Joy.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore discussed MFT road work for this year. A resolution will have to be passed and all of the paperwork has to be sent in to IDOT which will take up to 3 months. If we act now we could potentially begin the project in August of this year. Will discuss at the May meeting. The MFT account has 63 thousand in it and IL Funds has 5 thousand to date. Will order cold patch towards end of month.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore: There is no culvert at 211 E. Monroe Street.

There is a bad spot in front of the Post Office that needs to be addressed. There is a hole next to a drain grate. Culvert is failing. Need to address the culvert then fix the hole. There are options for this problem. Trustees were encouraged to drive around a look at the streets. If there are some street that are falling apart they need to be discussed. One of the problems is water on the streets.

No word from Ameren about the May Street damage. The Village of Joy will begin planning to grind streets. Stock piling supplies will begin. Village Trustee Noah Livermore will inquire about millings.

One of Village of Joy's big problems is water on the streets. It is possible that some street can be spray patched and some will need to be milled chipped and oiled.

No word back from Gene Puckett for concrete bid for park bathrooms. Will contact Gene for the new bid. Concrete has gone up in price. Our project is not complete.

The truck route grant was discussed for Washington Street. The grant is a 20% match and the Village of Joy cannot afford that. If Washington Street is oiled and chipped it should last 10-15 years.

Village Trustee Rory Conway made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Noah Livermore 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Patsy Peterson-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gwen Pritchett

Joy Village Clerk