

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday September 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Joy Village Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday September, 2023 by Village President Larry Hunt. The meeting was held at Village Hall, 200 W. Main Street, Joy, IL.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll was called by Village President Larry Hunt.

Trustees present: Kristy Lee, Paul Hampton, Jason Huston, Noah Livermore, Rory Conway.

Street Committee members received keys to Maintenance Building.

Public Present: Liz and Mat Willits

Village Clerk, Gwen Pritchett was present.

ION did not attend the meeting but will email a report. Britton figured out what was wrong at the treatment plant will send a quote. This information will be emailed to Board members when it arrives.

Trick or Treat date and time was discussed. After discussion it was decided to have Village of Joy City Wide Trick or Treat, 5-7 p.m., Saturday, October 28, 2023. Hot Chocolate, Hot Dogs and Treats will be served at the Joy Fire Station. Everyone is welcome to attend.

After discussion it decided to send Wind Chimes to Speer Funeral Home for Village Trustee Patsy Petersons husband, Lonnie. Everyone agreed and expressed deep sympathy for Patsy and the family.

Mat and Liz Willits addressed the board. Mat and Liz purchased 100 E. May Street and would like to disconnect the property from the Village of Joy, tear down the house, and use the land for farm ground. The Village Board will have to vote to allow the property to be disconnected from the Corporate Limits of Joy or not.

Village President – The land is zoned residential not farm.

Mat Willits – Asked how to remove the house.

A controlled burn will not be allowed. The house will have to be torn down and hauled away and burned away from the Village of Joy Corporate Limits. Two of the Trustees are on the Fire Department and were able to speak in behalf of the Fire Dept.

There is also a gas main that will need to be considered. According to Mat, he has permission from Ameren to burn down the house.

The property cannot be farmed unless it is disconnected from the Village of Joy. Mat asked if he can grow a garden in the city limits. Village President Larry hunt answered yes. Mat wanted to know the difference between a garden and planting a crop.

The issue of disconnecting Village of Joy Water and Sewer connections will be reviewed. Disconnecting the water and sewer will require hiring a licensed plumber at the cost of the home owner. This may need to be completed before the ground freezes. The Village of Joy's Water and Sewer Committee will take a look at the Ordinances and advise. Mat Willits wants to keep moving forward with the process, plus keep people from going inside the house.

Mat and Liz left the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

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If 100 E. May Street is disconnected, the Village of Joy will no longer receive tax revenue for that parcel. Village Trustee Noah Livermore will look into what is required if a property is abandoned and water and sewer disconnections are required.

Village of Joy should only be responsible for locates and inspecting. There should be no cost or labor required by the Village of Joy

In the long term it is best to disconnect at the water main.

Construction Account discussion – There is \$1,548.16 left over in the Construction Account. According to Mike Wallace with USDA, the money in this account will have to be transferred and close the account. Each Board member was given an email from Mike Wallace supporting this action.

After discussion, Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to transfer \$1,548.16 from Village of Joy's Construction Account to Operation and Maintenance 999417 (5100112) and close out the Construction Account. Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Interest for USDA Loans 91-02 and 91-04 will be due and automatically debited from the Village of Joy Water Project Loan Account on November 1, 2023. The amount is \$13,503.75. A copy of a letter was provided to each Board Member from the USDA to support this transaction.

After discussion, Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to transfer \$13,503.75 from Operation and Maintenance Checking #999417 to Water System Project Checking #9-748-5. Paul Hampton 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Noah Livermore made the motion to transfer \$13,503.75 from Water System Project Checking #9-748-5 to Water Project Loan Checking #2442574, to cover USDA Rural Development's, November 1, 2023 interest auto withdraw for loans 91-02 and 91-04 (Water Project). Kristy Lee 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "yes" vote.

Christmas Lights Update-Village President Larry Hunt discussed the Christmas Lights on the power poles. Ameren discussed the poles that already have power for Christmas lights. The poles are not up to code and Ameren is going to cut the wires so the electric can't be used until updated. Each pole has to have its own power box and photo cell. The poles are now wired together with a turn off. If the Village of Joy can hire an electrician to complete the work to code there may be a change to have lit Christmas lights this holiday season, but not likely. You can hang decorations and not use the lights if necessary.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore recommended requesting bids from several electricians for the project.

Updating the wiring will make the Christmas lights safer.

Village President Larry Hunt discussed having a very large Christmas tree on the vacant corner lot at Main and Washington Street. He would like to have a community tree decorating event with Santa and serve hot chocolate.

Village Trustee Rory Conway has a big tree in his yard. It was discussed to possibly use Rory's tree for the event.

Police protection and squad car discussion: Mercer County PD will be selling old squad cars. The Village of Joy has the opportunity to purchase one of these vehicles under \$500. Mercer County is holding a squad car for the Village. If voted to approved, the Village of Joy will notify Mercer County.

The Village of Joy needs a part-time police officer at different times of the day.

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Will need to insure the vehicle and purchase plates.

There is still money in the budget for the Police Dept.

The ticket revenue will help pay for the officer.

If a union officer is hired, the Village of Joy may have to pay union scale wages. Discussed hiring a retired person or someone that wants to pick up part-time work.

In the past one uniform was supplied by the Village of Joy.

After discussion, Noah Livermore made the motion to purchase an old squad car from Mercer County. Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

After review and discussion, Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to approve the August 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

After review and discussion, Village Trustee Rory Conway made the motion to approve the September 2023 paid invoices. Kristy Lee 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Balance Sheet and P&L Reviewed – will require changes due to Washington Street Project.

Washington Street Project Update – The project is complete. Final cost \$56,258.35. Washington Street folder with invoices were available for review at this meeting.. Budget adjustments needed.

Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to move \$15,000 from 0150550-Park Maintenance appropriated amount, \$20,000 from #0150701 Purchase of new land appropriated amount and 0150750 Equipment Purchases-Parks appropriated amount to #0140545, Maintenance & Repairs – S&A.

Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway. The motion passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Delinquent accounts reviewed and discussed.

Additions to the Agenda

Rory Conway discussed the older tractor. Online, at auction, the same tractor like the Village of Joy's is being sold anywhere from 8 – 20 thousand dollars. The Village of Joy's tractor has a box blade, a rear blade and an enclosed cab.

Not sure if the heater works

Village Trustee Rory Conway suggested holding on to the tractor for now so it can be used to work on ditches and filling pot holes. A grapple can be attached for hauling brush. A new bolt on grapple can be purchased at a decent price. The cab looks good, not broken. Rory has a welder and can repair equipment if needed. It was discussed to drive the tractor and use it to keep it moving, It is not good to let a piece of equipment set around.

Village President Larry Hunt will discuss with Nick Retherford.

West Liberty, from Federal to Washington, has 2 inch deep 1 ½ ft. round pot holes. Will discuss with Nick, so he can begin filling.

Village of Joy is still looking for a used dump truck. Several different size trucks and their pros and cons were discussed. Village President Larry Hunt prefers a gas engine.

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The sea container at 101 S West Street was discussed. The ordinance will be reviewed. The container is located across the highway in front of Westmer One Stop.

Nick Retherford will replace a section of sidewalk at 401 N. Drury Street. Nick cut some tree roots that were causing the sidewalk to be uneven and a fall hazard. A section of sidewalk broke.

Boone Docks is planning to reopen restaurant and bar. They are planning a buffet for food. Not sure when it will be open.

At 7:12 p.m., Village Trustee Noah Livermore made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rory Conway 2nd the motion. The following vote was taken: Kristy Lee-yes, Paul Hampton-yes, Jason Huston-yes, Noah Livermore-yes, Rory Conway-yes. The motion was passed with a unanimous "Yes" vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gwen Pritchett
Joy Village Clerk