

The Regular Village Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Kapaun.
The meeting was properly noticed.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Janelle Beal, Jeff Vogt, Shawn Dakovich, Katy Kapaun, Brian Tremblay, and Tim Johnson,
Mary Shemon

Guests: Chris Holmes, Jerry Strohbusch, Chuck Pizzi, Tori Schoess, Josue Gonzales, Terry Lubich, Peter Tharp, Matt Hieb,

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Village Board Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2025.
2. Approval of bills/checks written.
3. Approval of Operators License
4. Acknowledgement of Education Request
5. Acknowledgement of Treasurer's Report.
6. Acknowledgement of the Police Departments Report.
7. Acknowledgement of Library Director's report.
8. Acknowledgement of the Clerks Report.
9. Acknowledgement of Library Board Minutes.
10. Acknowledgement of Plan Commission Minutes.
11. Acknowledgement of the Building Inspectors Report.
12. Acknowledgement of the St. Patrick's Day Parade for Bobtown Bar & Grill on March 14th.

Agenda:

Discussion/approval of Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda exception of items 1 & 2 by Dakovich, seconded by Shemon.
Motion carried.

Discussion/possible action of any items pulled from the Consent Agenda needing further discussion.

#1 "ant should be "and" on page 5. Motion to approve by Vogt, seconded by Shemon. Motion carried.

#2 – Dakovich would like to postpone since it was handed out late. Motion to postpone until next month by Dakovich, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried with the understanding that the payments will happen, and approval will be after the fact.

Communications:

- Legal Updates – nothing new to report for the active legal cases.
- Election Update – paperwork for the election in April has been returned. Tharp has filed a challenge to one candidate's paperwork because "Roberts" was missing in the address and it was acknowledged before all signatures were received.
- Sidewalk Update – had a meeting with Cedar Corp regarding the status of the project. Need to make the railroad crossing a priority. Kapaun stressed the need for the least amount of impact to the homeowners. Discussed moving out the white line and not making the 6-foot required sidewalks and trying to make 5-foot work instead.
- Communication with Ehlers – had conference call with Josh Low and Sean Lentz. Discussed the concerns with budget and revising the TID to bring revenue back to the village. Closing the TID would bring revenue quicker than amending the TID. Information regarding a bonding issue for fire truck, sidewalks or West Blvd street project, Rolling Meadows Park and other items from closed session.
- Liebenow Letter – distributed this letter so that you are aware of the nature of the communication regarding this. He is advising of injunctions and legal action if needed.

- Employee Luncheon to 1/15 – moved to the 15th due to a funeral in town of a long-term resident.
- Lot purchase – still working on finalizing the paperwork.

Public Concerns

- Peter Tharp asked why the packets are not being delivered by Wednesday before the meeting.
- Discussion regarding plowing of Wolf Creek and asking for the snow to be evened out and not just put in one yard. There are a sewage pipe and kids playing on the snow, so she has concerns. The snow is scheduled to be removed this week.
- Gary Johnston brought up plowing of North Division Street. Asked that the snow be taken from the South instead of the North so that it does not put the majority in the East side.

Old Business

Discussion/follow-up to revise the Special Assessment Ordinance 54-6 & 54-4 for clarification.

Waiting on language of potential changes for this wording.

Discussion regarding AT&T finishing their work in Rolling Meadows.

Scheduled for January. Not doing work but a sub is doing it.

Discussion/action regarding Chicken Ordinance

Discussion/action regarding Recycling Ordinance.

Do we want to do this? Is it worth the money that we get for the grant? Who polices this? What happens if people start going through cans, etc.? This is the recommendation from the DNR. Motion to approve the Recycling Ordinance by Vogt, seconded by Beal. Motion carried with Dakovich and Tremblay opposing.

New Business

Acknowledgement of the Public Works Report.

Motion to acknowledge the Public Works Report by Dakovich, seconded by Beal. Motion carried. – Full turbo is out including the seals. There is eight hours of labor planned for this repair. Kage plow is in and ready to go.

Update from Angi Goodwin at Ayres & Associates.

Goodwin gave a life update. Josua has been helping in the background and stepped in. Has made the decision that she will continue to work through the summer, and she is retiring in the fall. Goodwin has been working with the village for 28 years. Kapaun thanked Angi for her dedication to the Village and added that you left your footprint on this community and navigated us through some huge projects.

Discussion/action regarding awarding the trash and recycling services contract for the Village.

Tim Miller from WM, Justin Murtha from Murtha Sanitation, Rob Stafsholt from Hometown Disposal, Carrie Josephson from Olson Sanitation and Mark Vinall from GFL are here as they have submitted proposals. Kapaun asked if there were specific questions for specific providers as Kapaun would like us to decide on how we want to move forward. Motion to approve the Hometown Disposal bid by Tremblay, seconded by Shemon. Discussion continued with what the difference is in pricing. Motion to approve Olson Sanitation by Dakovich, seconded by Tremblay. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding the 2023 Street Project Pay Application for Albrightson Excavating for Retainage Reduction.

Gonzalez discussed that there is substantial completion and they are pushing to get the project closed out but that is going to be a separate topic. Retainage would be reduced from 5% to 2% and that is what we see. Kapaun's concern is that even though we have this amount how do we protect the Village to get the job done. Dakovich said that we put a project on top of this project and feel we should leave it as it is. It is a small project, and we could end up not a high priority so how do you get them back? Motion to deny the pay application for retainage reduction by Dakovich, seconded by Tremblay. Motion carried.

Update on 2026 West Blvd Project.

Met with DOT before Christmas. Pine Street, the whole street is in the right of way. Village maintains this street but does not own this. DOT will look at the plans for review but the timeline for review is unknown. April is the last date to get good quality bids. Second page has the latest layout with the changes discussed last month.

Discussion/action regarding SCADA Upgrades and Proposals.

Last month we had Energetics proposal and wanted a couple more. Reached out to a couple of different companies and had discussions and neither one was interested. There is a main bid and alternate bid. Main are the critical items that include software and computer upgrades and communication upgrade and lift station two needing an upgrade. Still recommended to take on alternate update to get everything up to date. Breakdown by stages or request that we are billed this way. Motion to approve contingent on financing and payment structure from Vender by Kapaun, seconded by Dakovich. Discussion continued with Johnson and Vogt not in favor of contingencies. Johnson would like to see the numbers and priority list before approval. Motion carried with Johnson opposing.

Update on Scott Turner fuel tanks.

Nothing new to report

Discussion/action of Test Well Pay Application #3 to CTW.

This is for the final payment for the test well. Motion to pay for the test well pay application to CTW by Tremblay, seconded by Dakovich. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Water Tower Construction Hours.

They would like to have extended hours for their flexibility with a 6:00 am start and working Saturdays. There are three residents that could be affected. Kapaun asked if we had reached out to them or could we call the residents. Dakovich thinks 7:00 am should stay in place. There is an ordinance governing the time Motion to follow the residential ordinance including Saturdays by Dakovich, seconded by Tremblay. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding of Well House #3 Exterior Selection.

Minimum visibility from the street, but consideration on how you would like it to look. They will have steel roofs on them. Motion to approve the exterior of 1a (brown splitface CMU) by Dakovich, seconded by Vogt. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Deer Hills Phase 2A Public Utilities Final Acceptance.

Dakovich said part of the motion from last time was a park design. Only looking for acceptance of the utilities. There still needs to be one more water test but the public watermain has passed. Sanitary sewers have been inspected. Communication is ongoing with Deer Hills. Heib recommends having Trevor on the agenda in the future when he is back. All but Police and Fire are done on the list. Motion to approve the Deer Hills Phase 2A Public Utilities Final Acceptance on Police and Fire review by Dakovich, seconded by

Tremblay. Motion carried with Vogt and Johnson opposing.

Discussion/action regarding Dump Ordinance.

Penalty for littering ordinance should be \$5 but we could add restitution on top of the fines. Read fine to mirror littering ordinance. Minimum of two hours, maximum of five hours for Saturday or Sunday. Move to approve dump ordinance striking hours, changing the wording to no contractors, even if working for a village resident is allowed to dump at site, and fine shall mirror the littering ordinance by Dakovich, seconded by Beal. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding Invoice for Simon Electric for the WWTP.

Motion to approve Simone Electric for \$8,119 by Dakovich, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding the Police Department Vehicle Fleet.

Chief Strohmusch said the alternator went out before Christmas on the unmarked squad, but it has been fixed, but there is still an electrical warning that he is working with Hudson Ford next week to see if they can find the short. Strohmusch is asking how much would the board like to spend on the vehicle to be fixed? Second, Strohmusch would like to go out for a new squad with six bids coming in from Ford and Dodge. Looking for directions of how much to put in the car. The oldest squad would go to Strohmusch to cover until he retires. The board would like to do the diagnostic and see what it is going to cost to replace it.

Discussion/action regarding the repair for the 2008 Freightliner Plow Truck.

Premier Truck (old River States) first estimate is for remanufactured the other is stock. Motion to approve the fix with the remaining turbo option by Vogt, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Village Priorities

- Sidewalk Project – at a minimum is the railroad sidewalk crossing.
- Rolling Meadows Park – include this money in possible bonding issue. Think people have waited long enough and expenses only go up. Substantial amount of money and has a bad feeling that if we try to piece meal it won't get done. This project started 20+ years ago and the residents have waited for a longtime and their kids are now married and have kids.
- TID Revisions / Closure – either close one out or amend one or Ehlers may have suggestions for us.
- Public Works Leadership – this past year we talked about doing Operator in Charge and we still have Kay on board, but we need to talk now to see if there is one leader of the PW department. OIC contract is fragile and we need to figure this out before the next budget cycle. Do we continue to contract that out or promote from within. Director is just a vote of the board and would like to see this on for the next meeting (Dakovich would like to see this/Tremblay is the second to get this on the agenda for next month). Director title does not tie this to OIC.
- Direction of Clearas System – we know the history and no longer have a company to support us. Greenhouse pricing for growth management and will meet Clearas capacity in two years and would like to see a recommendation from Water & Sewer Committee of where we want to go in ten years. Do we want the same system by adding greenhouses or investing in other alternatives. Where are we in 12 years. Mondovi financed project with a grant, will need to inventory what they have but need permission to release anything.
- Radios for the PD / Fire Department (Chief Strohmusch) – where are we going and what will meet our needs. Amount of money to allocate this. Radio for public works or emergency management.
- Security for Village Hall (Dull) – improve security in the front and the building in general.

This is a list of priorities that Kapaun thinks are priorities – do you see them as priorities or should there be

something else.

- There are already projects in progress. Is there something else that we should be thinking about.
- More of the holiday decorations around the village, municipal properties. Christmas at the park – donate lights and help put them up. Veterans Park.
- Vogt thinks we should think about how much we have grown and need to look at services and maybe we need to look at getting an ambulance stationed here.

Discussion/action regarding Committee Assignments.

No list was given out. The Micro Loan Committee is outdated with Willard, Rand and an open position listed. Kapaun, Waughtal are willing to be on the committee and tentatively April Cook is willing to fill the role of banker. This program still exists and our roll is minor. State takes applications and passes it on for local vetting. Move to approve as presented by Dakovich, seconded by Vogt. Motion carried.

Items for future agendas.

- a. Public works direction
- b. Follow-up to postponed items
- c. Fine signs – adding to signs.

Move to adjourn at 8:50 pm by Dakovich, seconded by Tremblay. Motion carried.

Megan Dull,
Village Clerk