

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

Study Session Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

CATHI FRITZ	LINDSEY LIGHT	BOB PARR	DOIT ROBERTS	ROBERT WRIGHT
Present	Present	Present	Present	Present

DEPARTMENT STATUS AND COUNSEL RESPONSE

VILLAGE HALL

Mayor Wright provided the board with an update on the development of the village website. Department heads are giving input, and the addition of fillable forms that can be submitted is being created. C. Fritz will start working on the official village Facebook page and getting things posted on project updates.

The contract for Christmas lights was presented to the board for consideration at the next meeting. It would be approximately \$2,790/year. B. Parr stated he would like to see some additional poles to be included. He will provide an update on the number of poles.

The process of appealing the requirement for animal tags will be on the agenda for approval. It was discussed at the last minute that the county already requires tags.

FINANCES/TREASURER

Preparations for next year's audit is underway.

PUBLIC WORKS

The department has required additional summer help to help cover the mowing and other duties as needed. The request came in for two and will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Lisa Lashuay presented MFT Appropriations. This must be approved each year for general maintenance from the general fund. IDOT must approve what the board approves.

POLICE

The Tahoe transmission went out. The repair will cost approximately \$6,700. A proposal for purchasing a new Charger was presented for board consideration, including a Tahoe trade-in, so it must get fixed. With the trade-in, the charger would be approximately \$29,000, down from \$49,000. There was a discussion about the need for reliable vehicles for the department.

The school district will vote on the SRO agreement at its next meeting. Once this is approved, it will be put out for applicants to apply.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The new billing services that the department started are going very well.

LEGAL

Mayor Wright informed the board the attorney told the office the village did not levy the 2022 tax for TIF. The town must contribute 10% and have it assessed, but now will need to pay a penalty. TIF I is closed, but TIF II is still open.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

LANDBANK

Mike Davis from the Central Illinois Land Bank Authorities updated the board on the resources available to the village. It is an agency for approximately 21 communities primarily located in Vermilion County. They help improve communities by stabilizing and revealing properties. Revitalizing properties is getting them back on the tax roll. They accomplish this by submitting applications for grants. The village must provide them with a list of projects they want to take care of. It all starts with Code Enforcement to help the resident, then can go through the legal system to get the title if the resident does not compile and grant funds that can be used to do something positive. Last year six grants were funded for close to ½ million dollars for Vermilion County. To have funds to utilize, they need a commitment from villages to help with the administrative and insurance costs the Land Bank incurs. This will be on the agenda for board consideration at the next meeting.

FEHR-GRAHAM REPRESENTATIVE

Levi Kaman introduced himself to the board and thanked them for all the projects they had provided them to look over. Several projects are underway: the Southern Tire Mart, the proposed updated walk bridge, and additional parking spaces downtown.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION UPDATE

The committee planning the 2023 celebration provided an update on what they have been able to plan. They have scheduled food trucks, live entertainment, a bag tournament, and the annual parade. They hope to bring back the commode races done down the main road years ago. There is a need for insurance coverage for the bounce houses and commode races. All vendors and food trucks are covered by their own individual insurance. The committee currently does not have it's own insurance and was planning to use the Youth Football organization's for the events outside THE BOX. However, Brett and Bruce Harrison stated that Youth Football's insurance won't cover bounce houses and the commode race. Carrie Waite was investigating options since she works in insurance. The committee will check with the village office to see if

the village's insurance covers the parade. The commode races are being planned as a high school wrestling team fundraiser. The organizers of the commode race and anyone supervising the bounce houses will have to provide their own insurance and apply for a separate permit apart from the committee. Brett Harrison state that he thinks the school will be extending their insurance to cover the commode race for the fundraiser, but there was no solution to the bounce houses currently. B. Parr thanked the committee for stepping up to help plan these events and bring something back to Oakwood.

LIQUOR AND NOISE ORDINANCES

Brent Harrison presented a request to change the current liquor ordinance to the board. Currently, the ordinance states liquor can be served 7:00 am – 12:00 am 7 (seven) days a week. He is requesting that Sunday thru Wednesday stay with the current ordinance but proposing Thursday thru Saturday being 7:00 am thru 1:00 am. There were concerns regarding noise from bands. He stated they would still stop all outside music per the current ordinance even if they stay open later. There was a question regarding the gaming portion of the ordinance. Mayor Wright will communicate to the lawyer the following details. Then it will be presented at the next meeting for board consideration. Games will shut off at 1:00 am, but the new ordinance will provide more clear requirements that it is illegal to sell alcohol after 12:00 am or 1:00 am, depending on the day, and illegal to have patrons "in" the establishment and on the property after 12:30 am and 1:30 am depending on the day.

PROPERTY ORDINANCE/MANAGEMENT

Mayor Wright shared with the board the updated ordinance that has been developed. This provides more details of the permit request and all references to the International Building Code, Electrical Code, and International Residential Code. There was discussion regarding the need to increase the permit fee to help cover the cost of all the village must do, and the board felt the village's expenses needed to be covered on commercial permits. Commercial permits require significantly more engineering review and paperwork by the staff which is not being covered by the current rate of \$1.50 per thousand dollars of project value. Mayor Wright stated the board is required to map out the districts to determine where the property code rules apply that specific village ordinances.

HOMEFIELD CONTRACT UPDATE

The contract currently in place ends May 11. Mayor Wright stated there is no chance to discuss the rates before the next meeting and stated he would be signing it based on prior meetings between Jarod McMorris and the village. He recommends the board approve the signing of the new agreement and will provide the board with the rate once signed.

FEDERAL GRANTS

Mayor Wright updated the board on a meeting he attended with U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly, where he was informed of federal grants available for municipalities to use for projects. He recommends having the attorney apply for these grants to help with construction and funding, another possibly is to help cover

the village's SRO portion of the position. Mayor Wright stated that the funding for school security was the first thing he brought up in the meeting and believes organization and support needs to be addressed at the state and/or federal level. The board felt it would help in future support once the planning development committee is established and projects are determined.

Mayor Wright asked for a motion to adjourn with no more business to cover.

Lindsey Light motioned at 8:52 pm to adjourn. Doit Roberts seconded it.

	CATHI FRITZ	LINDSEY LIGHT	BOB PARR	DOIT ROBERTS	ROBERT WRIGHT
YES	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					

Motion Carried

Submitted by,



Connie M. Young
Village Clerk

Approved 6/19/23