

Williamsfield Village Board Meeting Monday, April 1, 2024

The Williamsfield Village Board met on Monday April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the KP Village Hall. Present were Trustees Nancy Everett, Stuart Hickerson, Andrew Scott, Julie Van Dran, Trudy Self and Lucas Leckrone. Also present were Rick Smith, Pam Courson, Susan Ott, Mark Ott, Abigail Ott, Ruth Ann Herman, Peg Miller, Cecilia Ruck, Butch Kimler, Mark Ebner, Lee Ballard, Kent Rigg, Debbie Newell, Kyle and Laura Gibbs, Patricia Smith, Juli Kellogg, President Robert Johnson, Linda Baker (Treasurer), Jeff Lampe (Weekly Post), and Tori Courson (Village Clerk).

Motion by Trustee Van Dran and seconded by Trustee Self to approve the minutes from the March 2024 meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The following bills were presented for approval. Motion by Trustee Hickerson and seconded by Trustee Everett to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – Everett-yes; Leckrone-yes; Hickerson-yes; Scott-yes; Van Dran-yes and Self-yes. All in favor. Motion carried. The financial statement as of March 31, will be presented at the Budget Public Hearing on Monday, April 29.

Three of the Village's CDs will mature April 13, motion by Trustee Everett and seconded by Trustee Self to renew the 3 CDs at 4.61%. Roll call vote – Everett-yes; Leckrone-yes; Hickerson-yes; Scott-yes; Van Dran-yes and Self-yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Village Of Williamsfield Bills to be Paid April 1, 2024		
GENERAL		
Ameren - 7374	Cilco - Village Hall Gas	\$107.50
Ameren - 1292	Cilco - Caldwell Cottage	\$137.76
Ameren - 9615	Cilco-Village Hall Electric	\$115.21
Ameren - 7135	Cilco-Veterans Park	-\$0.29
Ameren - 8734	Streetlights	\$796.40
Ameren - 0732	Cilco-Village Garage	\$248.21
Ameren - 2819	Cilco - Park	\$55.76
Backhoe Joe's		\$2,100.00
Bouchez	Garbage Removal	\$2,583.00
Eagle Enterprises	Recycling	\$1,497.50
Gatehouse Media		-\$7.21
Liinda Baker	Supplies	\$36.73
MidCentury	Telephone	\$46.64
MidCentury	Telephone	\$47.72
MidCentury	Telephone	\$164.90
MidCentury	Telephone	\$124.62

Miller, Hall & Triggs	Legal Fees -General	\$1,694.75
Motorola Solutions		\$64.00
Pam Courson	Office Supplies	\$5.56
Tori Courson		\$95.73
Verizon	Telephone	\$35.99
West Central FS - 8389	Maintenance Gas & Oil	\$416.64
West Central FS - 1115	Police - Gas & Oil	\$145.69
		\$10,512.81
<u>OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE</u>		
Ameren - 1294	Cilco - Electricity	\$3,494.78
American Water Works		\$394.00
Core & Main	ARP - Maint & Repair Water	\$105.00
Hawkins	Maintenance & Repair	\$739.78
Hoerr's		\$93,077.75
Susan Ott	Mileage	\$8.04
Test		\$431.49
		\$98,250.84
<u>BENJAMIN - DOUBET</u>		
Ameren - 4008	Cilco- D-B Park Lights	\$32.01
		\$32.01
	Total	\$108,795.66

The auditors have started the audit for 2023; the Village will not get fined at this time from the State's Comptroller's Office for the reported delinquency. However, the Village is still unable to apply for grants.

Correspondence: NA

Public Comment: Rick Smith stated a petition was circulated around the Village for residents to sign that are opposed to the installation of the solar array at Doubet-Benjamin Park.

Lee Ballard stated he is retired from Caterpillar and one thing he prides himself on after years of purchasing is integrity. He believes if you are fair, honest and have good ethics, people will trust you. He stated he didn't know Verla but he knows the will had stipulations for the land, he feels if her wishes are followed through, trust will be gained. Trust was broken when the greenhouse and library were built, which went against the will. If the Board keeps their integrity intact, they can be trusted.

Peg Miller stated she got signatures on the petition from all walks of life including teacher, business owner, nurse practitioner, factory worker and they are all against the solar array.

Cecila Ruck stated her water bill no longer states out of town water but it still says out of town garbage and was wondering why that was overlooked.

Patricia Smith stated she agrees with the opinions on the solar array and she would like to have a dog park installed at Doubet-Benjamin Park measuring 20 ft x 100ft, which would give dog owners opportunity to let their dogs run and train dogs; she feels a committee should be formed to fund the park with fundraisers like "fleas" market, hot dog day, 5K walk/run, car cruise-in, contest to name the park etc. Patricia has done a lot of research and will work with Trustee Everett to form a proposal for the Board.

Kent Rigg stated he emailed his FFA Farm proposal after the March meeting, which allows students to farm and learn on the current farmland at Doubet-Benjamin Park; Trustee Leckrone wanted to clarify what happened a few years ago when FFA backed out and Kent stated they were short on time and did not have the full support of the School Board and Administration, but they do now.

Susan Ott stated everyone against the solar array did a good job speaking and she attended the Easter Egg Hunt this weekend at Doubet-Benjamin Park; many children and adults attended and she feels Williamsfield has a bunch of amazing residents and the power of a small community is amazing.

Mark Ebner stated he spoke with the EPA to clarify he is responsible for the water line from the curb stop to his home, he stated the government can control things at a state and county level, but they cannot at a community level. He stated the Board and President are far from elite and need to hear the voices of your people. He stated the lady from the will cannot speak for herself and the Board needs to follow her wish and make a motion to not install the solar array.

Police Report: Chief Robertson took photos of properties in violation of the nuisance ordinance and officers will serve 10-day notices to clean up or be issued citations. The following calls for service were handled by the police department for the month of March:

Trespass complaint	Report on file
Person down	Medical/fire
DOA	County handled
Property complaint	Nuisance photos taken
Phone harassment	Report on file

CITATIONS ISSUED IN MARCH

Violations	Citations	Warnings
Seatbelt	0	0
Speeding	0	0
Disobey Stop Sign	0	0
Ordinance Violations	0	0
Other	0	0

Street and Maintenance Report: Bruner, Cooper and Zuck prepared a quote of \$65,725 for streets and sidewalks projects to be paid out of the Motor Fuel Tax. Motion by Trustee Everett and seconded by Trustee Van Dran to approve the

estimate from Bruner, Cooper and Zuck. Roll call vote – Everett-yes; Leckrone-yes; Hickerson-yes; Scott-yes; Van Dran-yes and Self-yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Infrastructure and Maintenance Committee Report: The Board received the completed storm water project plans from Bruner, Cooper and Zuck; the total cost is around \$1.5M. Trustee Everett stated they need to identify the biggest problem areas and explore our options because the Village can not afford \$1.5M and the Village cannot apply for grants due to the census stating the population's average income is \$75,000, which is well above the poverty level. The maintenance department can install culverts and possibly smaller projects but will have to use the engineer's data before anything is completed. The new water lines still need to be connected to the water plant.

The previous quote to repair/replace the old maintenance shed roof dropped to \$67,000.

An invoice for \$380 was received for the cistern building that is no longer used; President Johnson will follow up.

Trustee Leckrone will follow up with Mr. Binder at the school to discuss the sidewalks to school project.

The Board discussed the sale of lots 3 & 4 at 106 & 108 Cottonwood Court; Motion by Trustee Hickerson and seconded by Trustee Self to adopt an ordinance authorizing the advertisement for bids for the purchase. Roll call vote – Everett-yes; Leckrone-yes; Hickerson-yes; Scott-yes; Van Dran-yes and Self-yes. All in favor. Motion carried. The advertisement for solicitation of bids will be posted in the Galesburg Register Mail once a week for 3 weeks, the deadline for bids will be June 1.

Trustee Everett is working on the addresses that need easements vacated on Cottonwood Court.

President Johnson arranged a safety inspection at the water plant, maintenance sheds and Village Hall to make sure the Village is up to code. The Board received the list of recommended and required items to purchase to be compliant and safe including signs, portable eye washing station, and first aid kits. Motion by Trustee Scott and seconded by Trustee Leckrone to spend no more than \$2,000 purchasing the most needed safety items. Roll call vote – Everett-yes; Leckrone-yes; Hickerson-yes; Scott-yes; Van Dran-yes and Self-yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Everett is working on the Census Boundary Line Survey.

Water Report: Bruner, Cooper and Zuck will attend the May meeting to discuss the water plant repairs. The equipment has been ordered by Test Inc for the new water plant system.

The Lead Line Survey that is required by the EPA will be sent out on homeowner's water bills to complete the survey.

The bulk water machine is very outdated and needs replacing; Trustee Everett stated there are 3 distributors that sell machines; she will get the cost from them to compare.

Parks Report: Pam Courson stated March 26 should have been the annual meeting to elect officers, discuss the budget, goals, set meeting dates, time and place and pay dues. There were only 3 members in attendance so without a quorum they couldn't hold a meeting. They went over the information Luann researched on lamp posts, light prices and availability to see what options there are for Veteran's

Memorial Park. The Easter Egg hunt was held in Doubet-Benjamin Park on Saturday sponsored by the Methodist Woman's Club. The weather was great, there was a huge crowd, lots of kids, great prizes and the Easter Bunny was there also. There will be a workday held Saturday, April 6th at 10 am at Doubet-Benjamin Park for anyone interested in coming to help.

Old Business: Kyle Gibbs stated a petition was distributed around the community to collect signatures from residents that were opposed to the solar array; Kyle stated 359 signatures were collected, which is 96% of registered voters in Williamsfield. The community appreciates the time to come up with a profitable idea but would like a Board member to make a motion to drop the solar array idea. Trustee Hickerson stated he would like to drop the solar array idea. All board members in favor. None opposed.

Rick Smith looked into different ways to create income for the community and has been researching an apple tree farm in place of the current lease farmland at Doubet-Benjamin Park. He presented a cash flow timeline with expenses and income, he recommended another 501 (C3) to coordinate the orchard and hire personnel, the deposit and planting process throughout the next few years will cost \$260,000 and the eventual gross revenue should be \$45,000/acre, chemicals, equipment, labor and selling costs subtracted for net profit should be \$10,000/acre in 2029.

No update on the .gov website.

President Johnson would eventually like to hold the board meetings upstairs at the KP Hall and stream the meetings downstairs for individuals unable to climb stairs; a new furnace/AC unit will be installed.

The paint and electronic recycle day will be April 27th at the new maintenance shed.

New Business: Abby Grubner stated Trustee Everett and Pat should reach out to the vet about the dog park.

Peg Miller stated N. Park Road does not have a street sign.

Mark Ebner thanked the Board for listening to the community.

Motion by Trustee Self and seconded by Trustee Van to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held Monday, May 6, 2024.

Minutes approved as presented: Tom, Gibson