

VILLAGE HALL OF HARRISTOWN

February 24, 2025

The Village of Harristown Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting on February 24, 2025 at 185 N. Kembark St, Harristown, IL. Trustees Kevin Vessels, Les Jenkins, Jay Trusner, Kurt Terry, Jeff Eller, April Bogan, Financial clerk Teresa Acree, Budget Officer Rick Laskowski, Attorney Joshua Dubbelde, Clerk Penny Allen and Mayor Evelyn Deverell were present. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Meeting Agenda

Mayor requested to move up in the agenda, Item A under new business up to the Engineer report section. Motion by Trustee Vessel to adopt the meeting agenda and move up Item A to the Engineer report section. Trustee Terry 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Visitors

Todd Havener-coach with the JFL program. He discussed the program. Last year they had 124 sign ups. This is not a school funded program but they use school property. He stated it costs approximately \$500 to equip one tackle football player. He would like to purchase new equipment. He would like to purchase a "sled" that is youth appropriate, currently using the high schools old one; cost is approximately \$ 4375. He would also like to purchase a line shoot, cost \$2513, 60 new jerseys at \$50/per jersey, guardian helmet pads, \$70-\$100 each. He was asking for support from the village. There is approximately 48 tackle players (\$80 registration fee), 37 flag players (\$40 registration fee) and 39 cheerleaders (\$60 registration fee).

Clean Cut-Colby discussed his bid to paint lines on the new pickle ball court; bid \$6860. He indicated certain paint had to be used. It would probably need to be done every 5 years. Trustee Eller questioned if he had done any around this area. He said he has not done any parks, only residential courts and playground equipment. Trustee Trusner questioned what kind of warranty? Colby stated 5 years for application, not sure about warranty on product.

Approval of minutes-January 27,2025

Page 1 – mayor updates, correct spelling on Budzinski

Page 1 – March 14 is last day, add ""for federal funding and budget"

Page 4 – should read ""J&M Fireworks"

Budget officer, has an extra zero, should be \$60,000

Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve the minutes with above corrections. Trustee Eller 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Acree discussed.

Trustee Trusner and Trustee Eller discussed the sign at the triangle; they think this sign is too generic.

The Gasvoda bill was for pumps being rebuilt; check valves were bad.

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Trustee Trusner questioned the attorney's bill regarding involuntary annexation fee. Attorney stated looking at any land regarding where the race track casino may be going could be involuntary annexation. Trustee Trusner feels that would be a dealing in bad faith. Why did we look into this? Why did none of the board members know about this? Transparency is needed.

Checks needing approval

SMS&J	Attorney	\$ 2580	general fund
Bendsen	signs	\$13136.00	Business
Gasvoda	GAI	\$ 2183.88	sewer fund
Total		\$ 17899.88	

Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve additional checks. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Treasurer Acree asked if the board could raise the threshold of bills up to \$1500. Trustee Vessels stated there is a list showing vendors approved that can be paid if over the amount. Trustee Jenkins said anything contractual that is at or below she should be able to pay. Tabled until next meeting

Budget Officers Report

BO Laskowski discussed. Water rates will be going up 3%. He questioned if the service loans should be in the upcoming budget? Seth stated no, it will not be next year. Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve report. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 6-0 Budget study session is set for March 19, 2025 at 6 pm.

Zoning and Planning-Nothing to report

Engineer

MFT-this went over because of storm sewers. Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve supplemental resolution of \$22,065.06 and sign. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 6-0

NPDES Elimination project-EJ Water approved agreement. There is a 10 day comment period before planning approval. Mayor stated federal funding is still tied up. IEPA funding could be 100% forgiven. The waste water agreement with EJ Water for payment of expenses for the title work and easements for waste water treatment project was presented. Harristown will pay and then will be reimbursed. Needs to read "not to exceed \$10,000" Tabled until next meeting.

Public Works

Mr. Closs not present; father passed away

Old Business

Ordinance adopting rules and procedure for public comments at meetings – need to change the time limit from 3 minutes to 5 minutes; additional 3 minutes if needed. No limit on number of visitors. -. States a 30 min time limit but this can be changed at a meeting. Board wants to continue with a sign in sheet not card. Tabled

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2025 Fireworks-If pay for fireworks all at one time we will receive a discount. Board wants to pay for all of it at once, not two separate payments. The fireworks liability coverage is \$100; will submit this to them tomorrow. Mayor discussed the annual festival and fireworks. There will be a baseball tournament again this year. She questioned if we wanted to continue the festival? The community involvement committee does not want to support/do this; they want to focus on Wycklefest. Trustee Trusner does not think the festival is worth doing. A resident asked if they can hold a car show at Meridian and First street at the empty lot if the person that owns this lot says it is ok. This will be between him and the property owner since there will be no festival.

Motion by Trustee Trusner for the Mayor to sign the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid agreement and resolution, fee \$100 for the year. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 6-0.

ACH payments for water/sewer bills should be going live by the end of the month.

New Business

Community Center-the center was rented on 1/28 and a fire alarm was pulled by a child. The Fire department did show up for the false alarm. Our contract says there is a \$200 fine for a false fire alarm. Jeff Smith sent a letter to the village regarding this. Village kept the \$150 deposit. Mayor questioned if the board wanted to give this back or keep it? Trustee Trusner feels the deposit should be returned. Motion by Trustee Trusner to give Jeff Smith his \$ 150 deposit back. Trustee Terry 2nd. Approved 6-0. Will change the community center rental agreement to read \$150 fee assessed for false alarms.

Cyber security and other training is required for elected officials and employees. Trustees received paperwork on what they needed to do.

Faucets- restrooms faucets are not working properly. Motion by Trustee Trusner for Binder to replace the 4 faucets at \$325 each. Trustee Terry 2nd. Approved 6-0

Committees

Personnel – nothing to report

Public works – nothing to report

Finance – nothing to report

Treasurer Acree discussed the need of a second computer. With going with ACH, they told her she needs a computer for just this. Motion by Trustee Vessels to purchase a 2nd computer and mouse. Trustee Vessels amended motion to spend up to \$200 for needed computer. Trustee Eller 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Ordinance

143 Western Ave – Mayor has been talking to resident. Cars are all licensed. Gate has been added on the lean to so you can't see the stuff. A complaint was made about too many dogs but he has 3 which is allowed. The resident does have ducks but he said he is taking them to Argenta.

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7975 W. Third – yard is a mess; appliances in yard. Letters have been sent. Mayor received a call this morning stating they will be cleaning this up; she will keep an eye on this.

5462 W. Cantrell – letter sent by certified mail but was not signed for. Mayor asked what the next step was. We do not have pictures. She said once the fees get so high, we can put a lien on the property. Mayor asked resident/visitor Rose Ross to have the residents that complain to her, to contact the village or send a written complaint.

7450 W William St – Trustee Terry said a resident thinks there is suspicious activity at this house. People have told him they have their windows partly open when it is 5 degrees outside and there is a lot of activity. Trustee Trusner said this is not a village issue. They will have to call the police.

7670 W William St – toilet in the yard. A letter will be sent

5480 Union School Road – there is a lien on the property. There is an issue about the property line. Trustee Bogan discussed that the person that owns the house is tearing down trees which is on her property. This dispute is a civil issue between property owners. Mayor said the lien on this property is \$505.01. Trustee Trusner questioned if there is a lien on this property, shouldn't the buyer/title company have seen that? Trustee Trusner feels the resident needs to pay the water bill fines but not the ordinance violation fine of \$205.00

Business

The Sangamon Valley youth league baseball requested a donation. We already have a banner. They also said they appreciate all that the village has done for them

Class of 2025 – bench in remembrance of Haley Embry. Motion by Trustee Jenkins to donate \$500 to this memorial bench. Trustee Terry 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Motion by Trustee Vessels to pay \$ 299 for a 2x4 ad in the Sangamon Valley high school sports booster calendar. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Motion by Trustee Vessels to donate \$15,000 to the JFL league with \$2,000 of this dedicated to the cheerleading squad. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 6-0

Returned back to the discussion of the lien on 5480 Union School. The lien was not recorded until January 8, 2025. The gentleman bought the property June 7, 2024 so there was nothing showing as far as a lien because none had been filed. He took possession in December. Motion by Trustee Trusner to waive the liens of \$505.01 for 5480 Union School Road and for the mayor to notify the county to release the lien. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 6-0. The resident will come in the office and pay the water

Park update – Quote for painting/stripping the pickleball courts was \$6860. Trustee Eller is concerned that Clean Cut has never done a park before. Motion by Trustee Jenkins to accept the bid from Clean Cut of \$ 6860 and pay out of the business fund. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 6-0. Bids were received for the parking lot striping for the park and the village office/community building. Bids from Asphalt \$1462.10 and Elite Paving \$1500. Motion by Trustee Trusner to accept the bid of \$1500 from Elite. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-1 (abstained Trustee Terry)

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A request was made for the road agreement from Storage America. The road they want to build and then deed to us, is not on our village property; we can't do anything. Tabled

SV Community discussion invitation meeting is 3/15 to discuss district relations and other topics. Mayor asked if anyone else wanted to go with her or go instead of her.

Motion by Trustee Vessels to adjourn. Trustee Eller 2nd. Approved 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 09:02 pm

Penny J. Allen

Village Clerk