

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF MACON )  
VILLAGE OF BLUE MOUND )

REGULAR MEETING  
November 4, 2024

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Scott Younger. Roll call indicated the following Board Members present:

Trustees: Jeff Reed Jr., Jeanette Crackel, Ross Carls, and Phil Jacobs  
Absent: Rick Moma Terre Moma  
President: Scott Younger  
Employees: Mackenzie Reed, Charlie Strickel, Chief Chad Lamb,  
Attorney: Andy Bourey  
Visitors: Alice Reed, Greg Mathias, Leon & Leanne Kallenbach, Alexandria Brown, Wayne, & Dan

After the meeting was called to order and attendance recorded, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Minutes** were distributed and reviewed for the Regular Meeting held on October 7, 2024. **Jeff Reed Jr. made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Ross Carls seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

**Bills** were presented to the Board members. While going through taxes, it was determined that IMRF has not been paid all year which incurred late fees in addition to the taxes owed. State taxes are being reviewed to bring them current as well. Phil Jacobs asked when the office would be getting Quick Books. Scott Younger explained that the program would be purchased soon. However, setting it up is above the Village employees knowledge so it would be necessary to find someone to install and set it up. The intent is to have it online and operational for the beginning of 2025. Alice is familiar with the Quick Books but not confident enough to set it up.

**Treasurers Report** was presented in writing indicating balances of each account. Late fees will be added to the water bills after the 15<sup>th</sup> as indicated on the bills sent to the customers. There are 30 customers still on the late list from October. One got shut off before paying the bill of \$350 which included late and reconnect fees. There were 495 water bills sent out with a total of \$25,564.58 due to the Village. Phil Jacobs requested that the office track the amount of cash coming into the office each month in order to better track and anticipate cash transactions in the future.

Alice Reed has been assisting Mackenzie sort through the computer reports and she suggested that the Village consolidate some of the accounts to simplify record access and reconciliation. Water, Sewer, Water-Sewer Maintenance could all be in one account and sub-accounts separated for bookkeeping reports. There is no practical reason for an Insurance account to be separate when the source of the income is put into the General Fund.

### **Attorney Andy Bourey**

- Court date for Brad Damery is on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Court has approved electronic notice.
- Cherie Engle has not been served yet but will try again. Her court date is Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Dustin Clark has been served with a court date notice of Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. Attorney Bourey has been told Mr. Clark will have it cleaned up before that date.

Jeanette Crackel asked if the Village could adopt the Home Kitchen Cupcake Law to allow a resident to sell baked goods out of her home. **Jeanette Crackel made a motion to adopt the Home Kitchen Cupcake Law. Phil Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.** Attorney Andy Bourey will research the law and present an Ordinance to the Board at the next meeting.

Scott Younger asked the Village Board its opinion regarding pole barns. Does the Village want to ban them for residential areas? Jeff Reed Jr. said he would not want the Village to ban them but they should be reviewed on an individual basis. Some places the pole barns are set back far enough that they are barely noticed. Other places the structures would be an eye-sore. There should be a height limit with the structure similar ascetically to the residence. Perhaps limit square footage as Stonington and Moweaqua have done. Stonington limits pole barns to 1000 sq ft.; Moweaqua to 20% of sq ft of house. The general opinion of the Board is that approval of a pole barn depends on the location. Leon Kallenback asked the Village Board for approval to build a pole barn behind his residence which would be obscured by buildings on Rt. 48 and his residence on the other side. The Village decided to Table the conversation tonight and open it up for discussion after further review of existing ordinances.

Chickens were the topic of Ordinance 106D passed many years ago. However, the ordinance did not address roosters. There have been complaints of roosters crowing in the Village and disturbing residents. **Phil Jacobs made a motion to amend the previous ordinance to prohibit roosters within the town limits. Ross Carls seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

**The Engineers were not present to discuss the projects.** Scott Younger informed the Board that equipment has been moved to start the Water Tower project which will set up on Wednesday. Colors will be Dark Blue with white lettering. This portion of the project should be completed by Thanksgiving.

Osage Nation has enlisted the Legal Department of the Illinois EPA and they should have something for us by the December Board Meeting.

### **Public Works - Water/Sewer Report** – presented by Charlie Stickel

- **October Projects**
  - Cleaning out the south side of the shop (for Chief Lamb's vehicle)
  - Trimble fixed the shop wall and did an awesome job and even fixed the sliding door.
  - Mowed and sprayed
  - 10/24 brush picked up (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
  - Removed bulk plant water – Tower out of service
  - Locate for CTI & METRO

- Shut off day had 16
- Cleaned Nancy Flamm culvert under driveway
- fixed water service at Chris Miller house on St. Marie
- Work on air pump at sewer plant
- fix gates at sewer plant
- Ramiro from Chastains helped locate tower lines and valves for draining tower
- replaced several non-working meters
- parts are showing up for tower project
- **November Projects (Tentatively)**
  - replaced non-advancing meters
  - Water Tower Rehab
  - Clean and organize the Water plant office
  - Work on shop
  - 11/2 main break at Crane and Prairie (Stonington and Moweaqua to help)
  - Christmas lights
  - look into enzymes
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Working with Mark Bingham on the Sewer Plant and lift station #2
  - Hire part-time help for a while – 2-3 days per week. (needs to be put on hold for now)
  - Start allocating ARPA funds
  - Request time and a half for call back

**Jeff Reed Jr. made a motion to pay employee time and a half for a call back effective immediately. Jeanette Crackel seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

- Propose time change for work hours to 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting January 1, 2025. The Board discussed it and did not object to the change.

Greg Mathias offered to maintain the ground around the Blue Mound Adds Color to Illinois sign. Scott extended the appreciation of the Board and the Village.

**Building Permits: None**

**Police Report:** a written Shift Detail Report distributed showing 369 hours in October.

**Village of Blue Mound**

Patrolling:	98 hrs. + 46 in-office hrs
Civil Complaint:	1 ea.
Complaints :	15 ea.
Ordinance Violations:	5 ea.
Training :	93 hrs.

**During the month of October**, there were 55 traffic stops, 3 traffic accident, 1 motorist assist, 4 police assist, 1 arrest, 2 domestic disputes, 1 preserve the peace/property exchange, 2 special police detail, 1 school event, Stationary Radar 119 entries (75 hrs) and 46 hours on administrative duties including writing reports. Chief Lamb met with his committee and provided them a shift schedule for November.

- Halloween was relatively quiet and without incident. A lot of Trick or Treaters (Scott Younger had 230 come to his door.)
- Election Day and Veterans Day are state and federal holidays respectively, but the police coverage will ongoing.
- Hoping to get squad cars by end of the year at a cost of \$90,000, \$130,000 with all equipment installed as required.

**New Business:**

- RE property tax document for Brenda Drive was found hidden between other papers and after research Scott discovered they had not been paid for several years. Scott paid them and brought them up to date. Since the road is Village owned, he is going to proceed to have them incorporated into the Village property essentially waiving property taxes.
- Meridian High School Yearbook committee has asked if the Village would like to put an ad in the book again as in previous years at a cost of \$700. The Board agreed.
- GFI is going to take over the maintenance of the office printers at a rate of \$69 per month. Currently the Village is paying \$100 for maintaining one printer. This will be a significant improvement giving the office two printers and a scanner at a cheaper rate.
- Greg Mathias reminded the Village that there is a puddle on the north side of the Meridian Community Church. Scott said when the crew was available he would have them jet the culvert to the corner which should alleviate the problem.

**Old Business**

- The Village will be contacting a forensic auditor to review records
- Jake of Moran Economic Development from Edwardsville is the TIF Administrator makes annual reports to the Attorney General. He will provide the Village with documents needed to apply for TIF Funds. He will review them to determine eligibility.
- Alice Reed has been assisting Mackenzie in getting financial records. During the process she discovered the Village owed \$15,000 for federal payroll taxes. It will be paid electronically and the late fee can be paid by check.

**At 7:10 p.m., Jeff Reed Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ross Carls seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes. The meeting adjourned**

The next **Regular Board Meeting** will be Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Approved:

  
 Scott Younger, Village President

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 Diana Kupish, Village Secretary