Village of South Jacksonville

Mayor Richard Samples	*Trustee J.W. Coleman*	*Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart*
Clerk Bentley Landess	*Trustee Michael Preston*	*Trustee Tom Jordan*
Attorney Roland Cross	*Trustee Open*	*Trustee Steve Retzer*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday August 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Call to Order: President Richard Samples called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was started by Christina Butler and recited by everyone in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in attendance except for Trustee Coleman who is out of town. Also in attendance was President Richard Samples, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Richie Evans, Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield, Treasurer Mindy Olson and Village Clerk Bentley Landess. Not in attendance were Attorney Roland Cross and Public Works Superintendent Brian English.

Approval of Agenda: President Samples asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion to approve by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken approving the agenda unanimously.

Comments from the Floor: None.

Discussion Items

1. *Budget:* Mindy Olson stated that the budget is getting narrowed down. She is going through the Ameren bills and locations. Traffic lights are in administration and will now be moved to street departments budget. Code Enforcement includes tearing down another house in the event that will be needed. Police is not complete yet – there is new equipment needed. Chief Hansell stated that the key points needed this year is a new radio system. The radio system cost for the Police Department would be around $105,

198. That includes batteries, changeover, licensing, the actual programming of it – everything. If it is not done, they will have no radio system. There is also a new e-ticket system that is being implemented at the County. The Clerk is going to the e-ticket system eventually. They are currently still accepting paper tickets, but not for much longer. Printers will need to be put into each squad car. The printer alone costs $448 per printer and there needs to be one in each car. That would be 8 patrol cars that would need them. There are e-tickets funds around $5,000 that will help. Another issue that Police have run into is a firearm issue. The Sig 320 is firing on its own, which is the pistol that the department uses. All academy's in Illinois have banned the use of this firearm. Pistol transitions - $460 for the pistol, $160 for the holster. Chief Hansell has already bought 5 pistols, but needs to buy more. He needs to add $6,000 to the weapons budget.

President Samples asked if the radios were worth anything. Chief Hansell said there is a market for it, but we won't get what we paid for them. There was also concern about potential burnout of current police officers due to being understaffed. There are potential new hires that are starting to go through the process.

Fire Department – the only thing not listed would be the firetruck for $400,000. Water – Mindy worked on putting in enough to do 5 sites for lead lines which runs about $4-5,000 per site. The water tower is on hold to hear back from the company on an estimate on what needs to be done. Sewer – there is an increase in the sewer contract due to an increase in services for a few months out of the year. There will be a new generator at the lift center. There will then need to be a fence around that generator. The street lights will now be under utilities. Like Police, the trucks are getting old and will need replaced. Mindy Olson stated that she would like this on the next Board Meeting to be approved after having a Public Hearing. Trustee Stewart stated that she would like to discuss it more with Trustee Coleman and Public Works Superintendent Brian English to get their input.

Chief Richie Evans stated that the $120,000 is for the radio project so all guys can have a radio. Turnout gear has already been ordered – on a replacement schedule of 3 sets a year. They can go down to 2 sets next year if needed. For the firetruck, Jacksonville is looking to sell theirs for the first quarter of 2026. They are wanting $400,000-$450,000 – he would like to negotiate that price. This would all need to be done in November.

2. *Animal Control:* Mindy Olson stated that after the last meeting, she received a phone call from Racer Woods and Mike Wankel, the County Commissioners. They reassured her that this agreement that was given is the one that is used across the board for all surrounding communities. She expressed her concerns about the information they are providing on what services are being done. They told her to reach back out to Lisa with her concerns. The biggest concerns were animal control not locking in at a set rate and getting a detailed report of what services were provided for each response, who called, what was done, etc. Another concern is there will be no after hours calls meaning police will have to respond to calls, making it a concern as to how they should respond if there is an injured animal or a more serious situation than a dog that is loose. The County Commissioners do not seem to want anything to do with it. Mindy Olson and President Samples will be meeting with the Commissioners on Monday. The Board also discussed letting the agreement lapse and see what comes of it.

3. *Grocery Tax:* President Samples noted that this is not a new tax and will not increase tax on groceries. Trustee Stewart notes that Trustee Coleman has been on the fence and Trustee Retzer is as well. Trustee Jordan is in favor of keeping the tax. Trustee Preston asked if we could use gaming to make up for lost money if we do not approve the tax. Mindy Olson stated that money goes into the general fund – non-restricted funds like salaries, utilities, maintenance, etc. Mindy stated that if we do not approve the tax, that money is just lost. Trustee Stewart asked if we could put this item on action items for the next meeting to see where we are at. The board agreed.

Old Business

New Business

Christina Butler: Ms. Butler has been part of the Village a little over a year ago from Pittsfield. She wants to be a Trustee for the Village. She stated she is a public servant at heart and has been volunteering for the last 4-5 years in Pike County. She has been looking at something to get involved in within the Village. She currently works full-time for the state.

Executive Session: The Board will adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter under Section 2(C) (11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)), and to discuss a personnel matter under Section 2(C) (1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)). IF NEEDED

Adjournment: President Samples asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to approve by Trustee Retzer, second by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken approving the adjournment unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Bentley Landess, Village Clerk

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 0