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 Christina Butler*	*Trustee Steve Retzer*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Richard Samples and recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in Attendance. Also in attendance were 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:

Comments from the Floor: President Samples asked for any comments from the floor. There were none.

Discussion Items

1. *Animal Control*:

Chief Hansell stated that he does not believe that the Police Department taking care of animal control for the Village is going to work. For them to do animal control services, they have to get registered with the department of ag. The license is $350. They cannot apply for the license due to there being no facility to inspect. If there was a

facility, there needs to be kennels for dogs and cats, food, water, workers to clean and take care of animals, catch poles, cages to transport, etc.

Chief Hansell's concern is where to take the animals when they are caught and how are they going to identify if these animals are someone's pet. Also, if there is an injured animal, what do they do if there is a vet needed to help the animals. President Samples asked if animal control would come and deal with that. Chief Hansell said they would come and assist with that. Mindy Olson asked about two kittens that were just rescued, and stated that animal control would not come to get them until the morning. Chief Hansell confirmed that. His question was then what do we do with them in the meantime? If there was a skunk in the cage instead of kittens, what would we do then.

Chief Hansell stated that we need to sit down with Attorney Cross. If he read the statute correctly, animal control is required to provide services. The only thing we need the interagency agreement for is for them to be able to enforce the Village's ordinances. President Samples stated that he contacted Attorney Cross to see if we are getting double taxed. Mindy Olson said that she brought this up with Lisa from animal control and they do not see it that way.

Chief Hansell asked again how do we manage this because legally, they can be kept for 7 days and then they have to be put down. Then, how do we train the officers on how to do this. Smaller surrounding communities are also facing the same issues with animal control. Chief Hansell recommended gathering up those communities to see what ideas they have. Trustee Butler said we need to start with getting legal advice on what route to take. She went to tour the animal control facility and stated that she does not have the tools she needs to do her job and that goes back to the County Commissioners. Mindy Olson asked what tools does she needs. Trustee Butler said there is no system to send out quarterly reports, everything is done on paper. Mindy Olson stated that all the Village has asked for is a simple report of services that should be easy to complete.

President Samples stated that he thinks we have done the right thing as a Village because we have brought the point to light. We are at the point where someone has to do something now. President Samples and Mindy Olson went to the County Commissioners to discuss this already and they were given no response as to any changes that would be made. President Samples then contacted Attorney Cross and will give advice on the next steps to move forward.

Trustee Retzer asked, of the calls the Police Department has had, what would animal control have responded to. Chief Hansell stated that based on timeframe alone, they would've responded to 3 that were during their hours. There were multiple they wouldn't have responded to due to it being outside their hours of operation. It comes down to the Commissioners. The workers at animal control were logging overtime hours and they do not want to pay for that.

Trustee Stewart stated maybe we need to scale back. We don't like this service, are there other rescue organizations that we can utilize that would provide better services? Trustee Butler stated that we have to hold the Commissioners accountable. She asked

when to expect a legal opinion. President Samples said by this coming week and that he asked if we were being double taxed.

Trustee Retzer stated that reaching out to other agencies is important and getting together with Jacksonville City Officials to discuss what is going on. Chief Hansell added that some should go a County Commissioners meeting and see what they say. President Samples stated that the next plan of action is to find and reach out to other agencies and smaller communities. Also, waiting to hear back from Attorney Cross on what legal next steps can be taken. FOIA is also an option to consider.

Old Business

Village Leaf Pick-up: Trustee Butler asked when the Village picks up leaves. November 3rd-November 24th, every Monday.

Generator: President Samples said if you see construction by the bank on Main where the sewer lift station is, it's due to build a new pad for the new generator to go on. That will go in in the next month. The big generator will go to the Police/Fire Department and the little generator will go in Village Hall.

New Business

Recruiting: Chief Evans asked about changing the age requirement for the fire department, which is currently 21. Many volunteer departments are 18 years old. Opportunity to get younger kids who are interested in the career. President Samples stated that is something we will run by Attorney Cross to check legal aspects as well as checking with insurance.

Fire District: Chief Evans provided a sample resolution that discusses what would happen with equipment and funding. If this passes, it also states that the Village will still support and fund the department the first year. It will take that long for the district to receive its funding. There will be petitions going around the Village as well as door nangers.

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 adjourn by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken to adjourn the meeting unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Bentley Landess, Village Clerk

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 0