Village of South Jacksonville

Mayor Richard Samples *Trustee J.W. Coleman* *Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart*

Deputy Village Clerk Mindy Olson *Trustee Christina Butler* *Trustee Tom Jordan*

Attorney Roland Cross *Trustee Michael Preston* *Trustee Steve Retzer*

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday January 22, 2026 @ 6:30pm

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Preston and recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in attendance. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Village Clerk Bentely Landess, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Richie Evans, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield, and Treasurer Mindy Olson. Attorney Rob Cross was not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: President Samples advised the Board that he would like to move the comments from the floor to the next meeting to not have two. Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Butler. Roll call was taken approving the agenda as presented unanimously.

Action Items

1. *Approval of Ordinance of the Village of South Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois, proposing the incurring of a loan and issuance of waterworks and sewerage revenue bonds for the Village in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $13,000,000 for the purpose of defraying the cost of acquiring and constructing improvements to the waterworks and sewerage system of the Village:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the ordinance. He mentioned that this is not for the sewer system, it is primarily for the lead lines. Trustee Stewart asked if Trustee Butler was pleased with the addition to the ordinance that she requested. Trustee Butler said she wanted the change in language, so the public

knew why the Board was doing this. That we did not create all this on our own. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the ordinance as presented unanimously.

2. *Approval of Agreement for establishment of combined animal control program between Morgan County and the Village of South Jacksonville as presented:* President Samples told the Board that they have copies of all documents from what was proposed to our counter and the final. He asked for a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Trustee Butler asked President Samples to clarify which agreement they are voting on. President Samples told the Board it is the one Morgan County proposed back to the Village with the highlighting on it. Trustee Stewart asked if the agreement does waive the reinstatement fee. Chief Hansell confirmed it did. President Samples asked for clarification of the joint dispatch center. If he is a private resident calling 911 what happens. Chief Hansell said the dispatch center will determine if it is an emergency situation or not. If they determine it is an emergency ETSB will contact animal control. Treasurer Olson clarified that an individual cannot call dispatch and request an animal control officer directly, it would go through law enforcement. Trustee Preston asked if there is currently an animal control administrator. Chief Hansell said it is Lisa Ladley. Motion to approve the agreement as presented was made by Trustee Retzer, seconded by Trustee Coleman. Roll call was taken with all approving the agreement as presented unanimously.

3. *Approval of adding an additional video gaming license under Class H of Ordinance No. 1113. Approval would require creating a new ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 1113.* President Samples said this is for adding an additional license for Hopper RV. Trustee Butler said there was a comment made about a license potentially coming available. President Samples said there is not one. We thought one was not going to be renewed but it came in. President Samples as for any discussion. Trustee Coleman said he thought this was a dead item. He said we already discussed this in length. Item did not pass due to lack of motion. Trustee Butler asked if they could make a motion to not approve this. President Samples said if the item received a motion and a second then the board could vote no. Trustee Butler made a motion to approve the additional video gaming license. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

4. *Approval of specifications and listing for replacement tornado siren as presented:* President Samples advised the Board that they have information in their packets for the specifications for the new tornado sirens. Bids would be due by February 26, 2026. Trustee Retzer said the information he has found says the Village does not need to have a bidding process because of some statutes. If 66% of the Board decide to waive the process they could. President Samples suggestion is that they go ahead and request bids thus showing they are doing their due diligence. Trustee Stewart said the Board has voted to waive the bidding process in the past. Treasurer Olson said she would suggest first they make sure the quote that has been received is still current pricing before deciding to waive the bid process. Trustee Butler asked if we could vote to go with the quote we have if it is still current pricing. Trustee Stewart said she does not want to wait. Treasurer Olson said the process is that you waive the bid process and select the company the Board wants. President Samples said that is usually done after they have a bid in hand. Trustee Coleman said we are approving the bid spec. This bid spec does not represent any company it is just the language we need to send to vendors. He motions that the Board approve the bid spec because he likes the bidding process. He feels it is important to have this going forward because it keeps everything competitive and vendors on the same playing field.

Trustee Stewart asked if he got the email forwarded from Attorney Cross. Trustee Coleman did not. President Samples asked what email she was referring to. Trustee Stewart said it was an email from Attorney Cross that said they have the ability to waive the bidding process with a 2/3 majority. He said he is aware of that because the Board has done it in the past. Trustee Stewart is not sure why the Board is going through this again. She said she is all for waiving the bid and if this is not written like that can we put it on the agenda for next meeting. If we accept the bid specs, we are now out until late February and will not be able to vote until March. Trustee Stewart feels we have missed the person who has done a lot of the groundwork on this and is a department head, she would like to know Chief Hansell's thoughts. Chief Hansell said he appreciates Dick and Mindy's concerns, and we always try to do the right things. He has been here 6 years, and the Village has had 3 major weather events. In those 6 years he fought these 2 tornado sirens to get fixed. They started talking about this back in 2023 and still have the same quotes. The equipment needs to be ordered, and it will take a while to come in and get installed. Chief Hansell thinks they have kicked this can down the road far enough and his suggestion is to waive the bid process, order the siren and get it installed. If we want to do the bid process, then we do it for the next one when we have saved the money. Trustee Coleman said he is completely fine with that, however that is not what is on the agenda tonight. He wants updated quotes with current pricing in front of him. Trustee Butler asked who is requesting the new quote? She would like to see a quote for 2 sirens. President Samples said he is hearing that the Board would like to table this item. Trustee Coleman agreed. Motion to table the approval of the specifications was made by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken with all approving the purchase as presented.

Trustee Retzer asked if this could be an action item for the next meeting. Chief Hansell said he could have the new quote by Monday. President Samples reminded the Board that they are wanting to waive the bid and go with the quote we receive even if another company comes in substantially under the price. Trustee Stewart said yes. She said she is at the point where only one bid we will get is from a local company and only one will be compatible with the other sirens. Chief Hansell clarified that if we put up a siren like the one at Loves which is a Whelen siren, the vendor for that manufacturer is Chirs Ginder at GTSI. If we keep all of our equipment the same and it interfaces with the radio systems, Mr. Ginder is the one who does all of the radio systems in Morgan County. If we go with another brand we can get it from anywhere. The equipment does not have to be the same but the problem with that is you have 2 different vendors with one being local and the other not. Do we destroy relationships with our local vendor. Trustee Coleman agrees but still thinks we need to go ahead with the bid specs.

Adjournment: President Samples asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Preston, second by Trustee Coleman. All in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Mindy Olson, Deputy Village Clerk

Ayes: 4
Nays:
Absent: 1

(SEAL)

Village of South Jacksonville

Mayor Richard Samples *Trustee* *Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart*

Deputy Village Clerk Mindy Olson *Trustee Christina Butler* *Trustee Tom Jordan*

Attorney Roland Cross *Trustee Michael Preston* *Trustee Steve Retzer*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday January 22, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Samples.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in attendance. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Village Clerk Bentely Landess, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Richie Evans, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield, and Treasurer Mindy Olson. Attorney Rob Cross was not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: President Samples asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken approving the agenda as presented unanimously.

Comments from the Floor:

1. *Pickleball Courts: Some* of their friends said that the idea of pickleball courts was brought before the Board prior to COVID, and they were hoping the idea could be brought up again. Trustee Coleman said that the idea has been brought up a couple times in discussion and the Board has talked intensely about what the plans for the Tourism funds are for the next few years. The plans are to revamp the parks. However, that does not necessarily include courts. President Samples asked if these ladies were involved in the discussions with the City of Jacksonville. They both were. He asked what happened – did the funds just not come through. The ladies said the Oslad Grant that the engineers applied for was not accepted due to lack of items not included. The plan that was submitted was 20 years old. She said the Oslad

Grant is still out there, and the Village could apply for it. President Samples asked if they had an organization that would run this. She said they have a Pickleball Club in town and there is an option that they could step in to help. Their goal is to just get people outside and play. Trustee Coleman stated that the Board has laid a foundation for the next couple of years to keep what we have, upgrade and maintain that. The ladies said Doug Moy would like to have tennis courts as well which would also be able to be used as pickleball courts. President Samples said he would feel more comfortable if they would come back with a group that would be dedicated to running the courts. Last thing we want to do is run it. If there are enough courts, they would be able to host tournaments that would bring in people to the Village. They will try and come up with a plan. Trustee Stewart agrees with Dick and the maintenance would be a big issue. We are a small group, and our public works guys are spread thin now.

2. President Samples gave the floor to Jason Hebron for his comments. Mr. Hebron said he is coming back before the Board about the sewer backup they had. He knows that our insurance company has denied the claim and that our Attorney has advised the Board not to pay the claim. He understands that coming from the Attorney who is hired to protect the Village. The Board is hired protect the Village as well, but also the residents. They had to clean their basement 3 times, and the Village was notified at 9:30am that day and the situation was not fixed until 4:00pm. If the situation had been taken care of earlier, he may not have had to replace his carpet and be here talking about it. Mr. Hebron said his wife does daycare out of their basement and for 28 years in the Village they have never once asked for anything from the Village. He is just coming back asking if there is any help available from the Village in good faith. Mr. Hebron said he was here in December and asked if the line could be camered and he is wondering if that happened. Superintendent English said we do not have a camera to run through the lines, but they do open the manholes every week now and the flow is going.

Mr. Hebron said they do not have sewer backup insurance because they have never had an issue until now. Their insurance also said they would not have paid the claim since the backup was not on their line. If this happened to any one of you, would you have wanted to help too? Mr. Haschmeyer said it rubs him the wrong way with the insurance because the Village pays for it, but the insurance company can just wash their hands of it and not pay. So, then whose responsibility is it then. It is a grey area. Mr. Hebron said the tort immunity law says we did not know about it however the Village knew about it at 9:30am that morning and it took until 3:30-4:00omn to get it fixed. Superintendent English said the guys leave at 3:00pm so it was fixed before then.

Trustee Coleman said he gets what they are saying as he is a homeowner in the Village too. He has had sewer backup coverage on his property. It is a simple

inexpensive adder. Personally, when he is responsible for stuff he gets it. He has lived in a lot of places, and he has never heard of a Village, City or Municipality giving a break to the residents. Mr. Hebron said he is not asking for $10,000. Trustee Coleman asked what he is asking for because the Boad does not know. Mr. Hebron said he has turned in the estimates and invoices. Trustee Butler asked whom it was turned in to. Treasurer Olson said she has those and they were all submitted to the insurance company. Mr. Hebron said it is about $9,300 to replace the carpet and the cleaning bill of $415. Treasurer Olson said so about $10,000. Trustee Butler asked again what they were requesting. Mr. Hebron asked for any help. If the Board wants to pay it all then great. Just anything to show we are willing to help instead of just saying it isn't the Village's problem. Trustee Butler asked if Mr. Haschmeyer had an estimate as well. He said he thinks it was about $20,000. They had to pay for Roto Router, tore out some walls and their dryer is having issues. Mr. Hebron said the backup was right by the school and Mr. Haschmeyer lives just to the east of them. Therefore, he was closer to it than them. Mr. Haschmeyer said a lot of there is cleanup from Roto Router.

Trustee Butler asked how many other houses were affected. Mr. Hebron said just their two because no one else has basements along that side. Trustee Stewart asked Superintendent English if they had any idea when they looked in there what was in there. He said Roto Router came in the day before and asked for a street opening and just said they were replacing the sewer lines. They never mentioned a sewer back up. They went to mark the JULIE at the house and saw the Roto Router truck. The guys then popped the manhole cover and found the backup. Trustee Butler asked if he found out by popping the manhole cover or from a call. Mr. Hebron said he called Phil about 9:30am that morning and he called and left a voice message for Brian about 10:15am. Treasurer Olson asked if he called Phil directly. Yes, he did. Trustee Butler asked who Phil is. Superintendent English said Phil is one of the Public Works guys and he was on the water service down by the plant. Mr. English said they were back in town by 11:00-11:30. The Village's machine broke so they had to call the city to get another jetter machine. Trustee Retzer asked what was in there. Mr. English said they really do not know. He said it looked like grease. Trustee Stewart said from Labor Drive, and he said it could be. President Samples asked which spots were blocked. Mr. English said they went in just past Labor Drive and one just west of the houses.

Trustee Butler asked for clarification of the Roto Router story. Mr. Haschmeyer said they had water in their basement and thought it was their sewer, so they had Roto Router come out. They came for the permit for the street opening on November 17th and planned to do the work on November 18th. Mr. Hebron said he also had water in their basement by the water heater on the 17th. They replaced their water heater thinking that was the issue. Trustee Butler asked if Mr. Haschmeyer had any report

from Roto Router and he does. Treasurer Olson has those and she will make copies for the Board. He also has a flooring estimate from For Your Floors.

Trustee Bulter asked if Mr. English was investigating the cause of the back up further. He said it is gone now so all we can do is pop the manholes and check for flow. Trustee Butler asked if everything was good now. Mr. English said yes. Mr. Hebron said by just popping the manhole covers you cannot tell what is between each manhole without a camera. Trustee Butler asked what the normal process is for a situation like this. Mr. English said they go out and jet the backup which flushes out any backups.

Trustee Butler asked what Attorney Cross said about this. Mr. Hebron said he met with President Samples and Treasurer Olson, and they advised the attorney said not to pay the claims. Trustee Stewart said they were not aware of that. Mrs. Hebron said they are here asking as long time residents of the Village.

Trustee Stewart asked Mrs. Hebron how this situation is affecting their daycare regulations. She said the carpet has to be taken up. The agency knows they are working on it. Mrs. Hebron said it should have been ripped up the next day, but they do not have the money. That is why they are here asking again for help. She said it could affect her license.

Trustee Stewart asked if there was anything in writing from Attorney Cross. Treasurer Olson said they discussed it in their meeting this week, but she could get him to confirm it in writing. Superintendent English said we also have the letters from the insurance company denying the claims. Treasurer Olson said those are in their packets. Treasurer Olson said the Village's insurance agent also suggested not to pay for the claims and that the City of Jacksonville does not pay for claims either. Trustee Butler asked how many times this has happened in the last 10 years. Mr. English said he has only been here 3 years. Trustee Stewart said she cannot remember one. President Samples said he has been around 23 years, and he can remember some backups but nothing to this degree. President Samples said there was an issue several years ago but that was from the Lift Station because the restaurant was dumping grease down the sewer. Mr. Hebron said he talked to Mike Langan at 12 Southland Park about that backup. He said Mr. Langan's basement did not get completely flooded. Mr. Langan put a backflow preventer in and prior administration at the Village helped him with the cost. It was in Fall of 2008. The Village paid $500 and he paid the rest. Mr. Hebron said there is precedent of the Village helping on something. Trustee Butler said that is part of her thought process if the Village setting a precedent, however, if this comes back what are we doing to prevent it from becoming an issue. Superintendent English said they do jet some areas they refer to as hot spots. She is trying to go back to determine where it started and how we can prevent this in the future. Superintendent English said all the Village can do is the

maintenance we can not do anything about the homeowners. His guys were in another manhole up the street a couple weeks prior to this incident and all was good. Trustee Butler asked if there are bigger solutions to these problem areas that we need to be discussing. Superintendent English said nothing that he is aware of. She feels the next step is to get advice from Attorney Cross in writing. Trustee Stewart agrees as she sees what IML said in the letters and that we can all agree we are not legally responsible, because the laws tell us that, but what they are asking for is if we can do something in good faith not indicating the Village did anything wrong. Mrs. Hebron said she understands what the laws say, what the attorney and insurance have said and that no one did this to their houses on purpose. They are just asking for some help because they are part of the community. Mr. Hebron asked if the Village ever provides grants or assistance to businesses. Trustee Stewart said that we do not.

Mrs. Hebron said that they had just done this a couple years ago and it was expensive and they cannot afford to do it again and incur the debt. Treasurer Olson asked if they had replaced the carpets yet. Mrs. Hebron said they have not. Trustee Stewart asked who they answer to in their business, is it the State. Mrs. Hebron said yes. Trustee Stewart asked if she has been in contact with them and are they the ones giving them a little leeway to replace the carpet. Mrs. Hebron said if the state were to pop in unannounced and it has not been taken care of; it would not be good. She also falls under the food programs, and they would see it as unsanitary as well. She is kind of pushing it just hoping to get through this and get it taken care of.

Trustee Coleman asked if they had any alternatives such as ripping the carpet out for now. Mrs. Hebron said they cannot have bare concrete and be safe for childcare. Their carpet is very well padded and high quality because the area is the play area for children during the winter. Trustee Coleman asked if that was mandated. Mrs. Hebron said yes without it she would not get a license. Trustee Coleman said he does not think there is a correct answer right now. He does not want to open the flood gates for future claims.

Trustee Butler said grants have been mentioned several times tonight and she would like to have that as a discussion item in February.

Trustee Butler asked if Superintendent English could bring an estimate to the next meeting for a camera in that area. He asked if she wanted it just to do that area or for the Village to buy a camera. She said actually both. How much would it cost for our own camera so we can do it when needed. He stated most cameras come on a truck so you would need to purchase a truck as well. She understands that she would just like to see the estimates. It is not a matter of not trusting him, it is just a matter of having it in writing from somewhere for future use. She would like that and for us to talk to Attorney Cross about what he said and what our options are and get it in writing. Trustee Butler asked how soon we could get this information. President

Samples said by the next meeting. President Samples said he thinks if you read the response from the insurance company it is clear. Trustee Stewart asked that he also share with Attorney Cross the concerns about setting a precedent if we move forward with anything in good faith and how do the Village protect themselves from something different. Trustee Preston suggested language to isolate it to these two issues. Treasurer Olson advised the Board that if they are looking toward this, the Board should make a decision whether they are going to do a reimbursement, or they are not first because you are going in two different directions. It is hard to ask Attorney Cross to give his legal recommendation on should the Village pay the claims or should they not and if they do what are the parameters around that. Trustee Stewart asked if we could just have Attorney Cross give us his recommendations on both. Trustee Stewart said they are just wanting to know what he said and if it is the same as what IML said he can just say "ditto". But she wants to know if the Board can set parameters. Trustee Stewart asked if Trustee Coleman's main sticking point was setting a precedent. He said his personal outlook is very different from others, but he feels it is a hard pill to swallow coming to the Board to ask for assistance. Mr. Hebron said he agrees but it was in the Village's portion of the sewer. Mrs. Hebron added that they know all the laws, but they are asking the Village to help them.

Trustee Coleman feels the Board needs to look at all avenues in writing, as representatives of the Village before deciding. He knows the speed is not what they want but they must go by their meetings. Trustee Retzer said he is very sympathetic to what happened; however, he wishes he was convinced that it was our problem that created it. Some professional to say the Village's sewer had a blockage that caused this. Then he would feel very responsible. President Samples clarified if he is saying South Jacksonville caused the blockage. He only has the word of some letters that say our product caused their backup. He does not have anything from an engineer saying that and nothing from our own sewer guy saying that. If we contributed to it then shame on us if we don't help. If we don't contribute to it then shame on us if we do help. It all goes back to what precipitated it. He said we are in a catch 22. Trustee Jordan said he concurs with Trustee Retzer. Trustee Stewart asked what other information Attorney Cross would provide that would be helpful, maybe about setting parameters like Trustee Coleman suggested. Trustee Retzer said that is part of it, there is just a lot to think about. Trustee Coleman said unfortunately we may never know what happened. Mr. Hebron said the Board wants a professional opinion however the blockage is already gone. Trustee Coleman said that Superintendent English did exactly what he should have done with the response. Once the Board gets more information he feels they should come back together and have a more intense discussion.

Discussion Items

1. *Insurance Claims for Sewer Damage: This* planned discussion took place under the public comment section of the meeting.

2. *Energy Contract:* President Samples directed the Board to the note he put in the packet from Good Energy. These are the brokers we go through to source energy costs. The representative is suggesting we go with Nordic for a 36-month term. This would be 12 cents per kWh and is expected to be over 16 cents this summer. He just wanted to be totally transparent for the Board. The trustees were thankful for President Samples bringing this to their attention.

3. *Fire District:* President Samples presented a bill that the Village received from the attorneys assisting Chief Evans with the Fire District process in the amount of around $1,993.91. President Samples said this has nothing to do with the Village and is asking the Board if they want to pay it out of our general fund or have Chief Evans pay this out of their funds. Trustee Butler asked if he discussed this with Chief Evans. He had not because he feels this is just like what happens a lot of times, the fire department tries to slide things through. Trustee Butler asked if the attorney sent the bill directly to the Village. Treasurer Olson said the bill is to the South Jacksonville Fire Protection District and was sent to Chief Evans. Chief Evans then coded the invoice and sent it over to Amy to be paid. She also told the Board there was an invoice back in 2024 that the Village did pay approximately $400. President Samples needs to hear from the Board on what they want to do. Trustee Coleman would like to hear from Chief Evans and in his opinion the invoice should be paid out of their funds.

   Trustee Stewart said shortly after she came on the Board, she was instrumental in separating their money from the Village's because it used to be under the Board's control. President Samples said it was under the Village's control because the department mismanaged their money. The department wanted the money back because they had raised it. So, if they have money in a fund, she is not going to vote for the Village to pay it. They should pay for it. Trustee Stewart stated that talking with Chief Evans would be good because then the Board could tell him that from here on out anything for the Fire District should be paid by them.

   Trustee Butler asked if we had an edited ordinance for the Fire District. Treasurer Olson stated that it would be something to look at if the Fire District passes. President Samples has been working on it, but we do not want to spend a lot of money on attorney fees at this time.

4. *Water Tower Next Steps:* President Samples advised the Board that in their packet is a report the Village received from Benton & Associates back in August. There has been

nothing more done about this since then because of the cost. Trustee Butler asked what the next steps would be. Superintendent English said that if the Board decides to proceed with this then it would go out for bid. She asked if our guys would be doing any of the work. Superintendent English said nothing major just some small work like laying concrete. Trustee Butler would like to see this start moving. Trustee Stewart remembers that some time ago Jamie Headen came and presented it to the Board. Benton & Associates would assist the Village with finding funding sources and the whole process. She asked if there would still be funding out there. Superintendent English said there should be some out there. Trustee Butler asked if that is something Benton & Associates would help us with. Treasurer Olson said we could meet with Benton and have them prepare an updated presentation and come back to the Board with more recommendations and funding options.

Trustee Butler asked if we could go out for bids in the meantime. Treasurer Olson said that is something Benton would do for us and we would have to go through the process. Trustee Butler asked if there would be an ordinance like the lead lines that we would need. President Samples said he does not believe there would be. She wants to keep this moving if there is anything that needs to be voted on at the next meeting. Trustee Stewart said if she remembered that Benton & Associates presentation would spell out everything including the steps that are needed and in what order. Trustee Retzer asked if that was what Benton presented to the Board not too long ago. Treasurer Olson said no it was just this report that gave the Board ideas if they wanted to keep the current tower and repair it. The additional discussion would be what the Village needs to do if they keep the current tower and repair that and what funding options are available, or what is needed if the Board decides to get a new tower.

Trustee Stewart asked if our current tower is big enough. President Samples said in his opinion it is not. Superintendent English said we are losing Exeter-Merritt so then our tower is sufficient. He said the EPA is coming at the end of February to perform their 3-year inspection, so he will know more after that. Trustee Stewart asked if Benton could have this ready for the next meeting. Superintendent English said he doesn't think so because Benton has people out on vacation but maybe the committee of the whole meeting.

President Samples said he would like to talk to another engineering firm out of Springfield to get their take on this. He does not have the greatest faith in Benton & Associates at this time because of other things going on. Trustee Butler asked if we could get both firms to a meeting at the same time. Treasurer Olson said she did not think we could get both firms to be here at the same time. She doesn't think that would be a good idea. Trustee Stewart asked if the Village has an agreement with Benton & Associates. Superintendent English said Benton is our water engineers and Hutchison

Engineering deals with the roads. President Samples said there is nothing in writing that he knows of. Treasurer Olson clarified that generally there would be agreements for specific projects.

Trustee Butler asked for an estimated date for when Benton could come to a meeting and information about the other firm President Samples is looking at. President Samples said we need to get together and see what we are going to ask the engineers for. He feels the next round of big grants will not come until the next election year. Trustee Butler said there is another round of the Community Grant from Congresswoman Miller in the spring. We should have been reaching out to her office to get our name on the list. President Samples asked if she had a number for her office. Trustee Butler said she shared all that already. President Samples asked if she could handle that part of it. She said she could, but she was told not to. She is happy to make that call.

Old Business

1. *Repeal Old Animal Control Ordinance: Trustee* Butler stated that the Board had not repealed the old animal control ordinance. It was not put on the agenda; do we have a plan for that. President Samples asked why she wanted to repeal it. She asked why we wanted it still in the books. We should clean it up.

New Business

1. *Letter to Resident:* Trustee Retzer asked about the letter in their packet regarding Billy Finch. Does that require anything from the Board? President Samples said Mr. Finch came for a special use permit and there is no way we can issue a special use permit because of the rules in place and because the location is zoned R2. Trustee Retzer asked if they are aware, it has already been used for that. President Samples said we are now; we were not before because no one brought it to the Village's attention. Chief Hansell stated that whenever the issue was brought up with Mr. Finch, he became very defensive, extremely rude and derogatory to Mrs. Beddingfield. He told her he could do whatever he wanted to do and to "F" off, went back inside and made a social media post that was also extremely derogatory. Treasurer Olson advised that Mr. Finch made a subsequent social media post that he was looking for a place to have a business.

2. *Grants:* Trustee Butler wants President Samples to ask whatever engineering firm he speaks with if they will write grants. They should write the grants for a percentage. Treasurer Olson said Benton will write grants for specific projects.

Executive Session: There is no need for an executive session.

Adjournment: President Samples asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Retzer, second by Trustee Coleman. All in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Mindy Olson, Deputy Village Clerk

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent:

(SEAL)