# 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*

## *BOARD MEETING MINUTES*

### *Thursday January 8, 2026 @ 7:00pm*

*Call to Order:* The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Samples.

*Pledge of Allegiance:* The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ben Spreen and recited by all in attendance.

*Roll Call:* Roll call was taken with all Trustees in except Trustee Coleman. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Attorney Rob Cross, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Asst. Fire Chief Dave Salcido, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, Village Clerk Bentley Stewart and Treasurer Mindy Olson. Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield was not in attendance.

*Approval of Agenda:* President Samples asked to move discussion item 2 to accommodate the attorney. Motion to approve by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken approving the agenda as presented unanimously.

*Comments from the Floor*: None

## Discussion Items

2. *Ordinance of the Village of South Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois proposing the incurring of a loan and issuance of waterworks and sewerage revenue bonds of 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:* Attorney Cross said the discussion is for an ordinance for the future issuance of bonds. He has asked Attorney Mike Southworth for the bond council to explain this. Attorney Southworth advised the board that the IL EPA has a program where they will loan and forgive some of the money to the Village for the purpose of replacing lead lines. There are a couple pieces to the process, and one is having a project description and cost estimate. The other part of the process is the legal process for a Village to borrow money. It is his understanding that the Village is looking to authorize the borrowing of an amount not to exceed $13,000,000 for the project. For the Village to borrow they have to go through the process outlined by the General Assembly for all non-home rule municipalities. The process requires the Village to adopt an ordinance that briefly describes the project and the amount of money that will be borrowed. Then that ordinance along with a notice is published in a local newspaper. That starts a 30-day back door petition period. The petition time allows residents to submit a petition to the clerk which would request that the project and borrowing be submitted as a referendum vote. The number of signatures required would be 10% of the votes in the previous election. That would be 238 signatures. The ordinance he prepared is very simple just describing the project and the costs and satisfies the requirements. If there is not a petition submitted, the Village can adopt additional ordinances to more completely describe the borrowing and the project.

The IEPA loan process requires the loan applications to be submitted by March 31st and shows that the Village has gone through the back door review process. Submission would also include the opinions and certificates that show the Village has done everything necessary. The IEPA then scores the applications that have been received and decide as to which communities will receive money and how much. That decision comes at the end of July. If the Village is one that gets selected, then the project can be set out for bid. Then once everything is set, the Village would sign the loan documents with the IEPA.

Attorney Cross said the important thing to understand is the passing of the ordinance allows the Village to start the process, so we meet the deadline to apply for the IEPA loan. President Samples confirmed the magic date is March 31, 2026. President Samples said if we pass this, we can set a special meeting on January 22, 2026, then we can have it published right away. Treasurer Olson asked if the language in the ordinance is just standard statute ordinance. Her concern was the 18" within a resident's home. Attorney Southworth said he defers to the engineers for project specifications and inserts that into the ordinance. He would rather have too much than not enough.

President Samples told the board he knows this is a lot to digest in a short period of time but encourages them to reach out with any questions. Treasurer Olson also reminded the board that this is not the Village choosing to do this work, it is the IEPA mandating the work to be done. Trustee Butler asked when the board would have a plan in front of them. Mr. English said we have phases in place now where we would start the work.

Trustee Butler said so we know this is the cost. Attorney Cross said the board would vote on the actual costs at a later date. Ben Spreen said they put together a plan for the Village for all the lead service line replacements. Currently the estimate is about $11,000,000 that is broken into 5 different phases. Each phase is going to be per year. He said the board should approve enough dollars, so they do not have to come back and do the process again. They broke it into 5 phases because the funding that has been available in recent years is about $2,500,000 in principal forgiveness. President Samples reminded the board that every municipality in the State of Illinois is going through this, so we are not alone. This has nothing to do with the water tower, water plant or sewer. Trustee Butler asked Attorney Cross if there is somewhere in the ordinance that we could or should add language that this is required by another organization and not the Village. Attorney Cross said he will get with Attorney Southworth and see what can be done.

## Mayor's Report

- *Fire Department Update:* Asst Chief Salcido reported a total of 46 calls for the month of December and 530 for the year.
- *Police Department Update:* Chief Hansell reported 653 calls for the month of December and around 6,000 calls for the year. The new officers are doing great in the FTO process.
- *Public Works Update:* Superintendent English said the guys have been busy filing potholes and removing rock from front yards after the snow plowing. They have also been working on the water tower as the weather allows. The flow meters for the sewer are being calibrated tomorrow. not in attendance due to working a water main break.
- *Code Compliance/Enforcement Reports:* President Samples reported that the Village issued 2 building permits during the month of December. The property at 1515 S. Main was supposed to sell at auction, however it was called off because the lending institution was under the impression there was still a house on the property.
- *Treasurer's Report*: Treasurer Olson reported that she has not received a decision back on the insurance claims that were filed because our adjustor quit and now, we have a new adjustor. She provided the budget to actual comparison for the first 6 months of the year.
- President Samples advised the Board that the South Diamond project is going to be happening.

## Action Items

1. *Approval of Payables for the month of December in the amount of $298,238.75*: President Samples asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Butler asked if the amount could be changed to the correct amount of $298,239.75. Motion to approve the

correct amount by Trustee Butler, second by Trustee Stewart. Roll call was taken approving the Payables unanimously.

2. *Approval of Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for Maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code for Sec. 09-00020-00-RS in the amount of $40,005.17:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Preston. Treasurer Olson advised that this is from the East Vandalia project from 2009. She reassured the board there are no funds coming out of our MFT account. This is just required paperwork for IDOT to close out their files. Roll call was taken approving the resolution unanimously.

3. *Approval of Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for Maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code for Sec. 05-00018-01-FP in the amount of $192,744.50:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Jordan. Treasurer Olson advised that this is the Sequoia project from 2011. Roll call was taken approving the resolution unanimously.

4. *Approval of Collin Beddingfield and Bruce Williams as new hires for the South Jacksonville Fire Department:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the hire as presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Trustee Jordan, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Asst Chief Salcido told the board that Collin works at Beardstown Fire Department and lives in Jacksonville. He is also an EMT. Bruce works at GTSI and just moved back to town from the military. They will both be hired as probationary for a year. Roll call was taken with all approving unanimously.

## Discussion Items

1. *Discussion of Tourism Grant Request for Rotary Club of Jacksonville Bass Fishing Tournament in the amount of $10,000.00:* Pete from the Rotary showed the board the information that was put in the flyer last year showing the hotels in the Village. Last year they had a lot more teams and made more money to give out to the community. He thanked the board for helping with the past tournaments and hopes for continued support. The event is the first Saturday in April. President Samples said this will be on the next agenda.

3. *Animal Control – fees for retrieving pets:* President Samples turned the floor over to Trustee Butler. She has collected some information from Chief Hansell, and it looks like we had 24 calls over a 3-month period. She would like to have a discussion before she proposes anything. President Samples asked of the 24 calls did they take in any animals. Chief Hansell said there were animals that were brought back but only one that was technically housed. Attorney Cross asked what the proposal is. Is the fee if the Village

takes the animal and holds on to it or what is the proposal. Trustee Butler said she has not made a proposal. What we are doing is looking at the ordinance we already have on file for a $10 fee and seeing if we want to amend the ordinance and raise the fee. Trustee Stewart asked is the Village belonged to animal control in 1974 or were we doing animal control on our own. President Samples said there was no animal control in 1974. Treasurer Olson said she believes there are 2 scenarios to look at. One would involve the Village responding to a call and taking the animal and the other would be responding to a call without.

Trustee Retzer asked which of these calls would have been handled by animal control if we had renewed our contract. Chief Hansell said all would have. Trustee Retzer asked why we are burdening the Police Department with this. Trustee Stewart said she mentioned from the beginning she has no desire to be in the animal control business. Chief Hansell said a lot of the ordinances we have on file date back to before 1974. There will be a lot of work if we plan to keep doing animal control. Trustee Retzer said he gets the feeling that we just dug out heals in against animal control and they dug their heals in against us. He said we should bite the bullet and go back to animal control. Treasurer Olson said there are 2 things she has. One is that as a municipality we are required by any state statute to provide animal control for our residents. The other is back in the beginning we were not getting any accountability from animal control. Animal control was charging the Village for services they were not providing. She has no problem going back to animal control if the board is ok with paying the fee and not knowing what services we are getting. She is still questioning whether the Village is responsible for providing animal control services. Attorney Cross said practically everyone is going to call the Chief regardless. Chief said he has talked with all 3 commissioners who are willing to waive the reinstatement fee and will provide reports as to what calls they go on twice a year. They are also willing to make after-hours' calls at the request of the police department. They are not willing to negotiate a 3-year contract, it will be yearly and the same for everyone. Treasurer Olson said she was not aware of any of that, and it is everything we have been asking for. Chief Hansell said he did this on his own and did not tell anyone else.

Trustee Retzer suggests we make an action item next meeting to go back to animal control. President Samples said even though someone that is not living in the Village limits gets this service for free while we pay for it. Trustee Retzer said he thinks that is something for our legal department to look into. Attorney Cross said he does agree with the double taxation, but they can charge for services. He said every county he knows of has these types of annual renewals. Chief Hansell agreed and said the services are going down as well. Trustee Butler asked Attorney Cross how the county is able to decline their portion while increasing the participants' provisions. What can the Village do about that to say you have a fee structure to pay for this. Attorney Cross said the only thing he suggests is going to the county board meetings and keep bringing it up to them. Trustee Stewart agrees with Trustee Retzer that we need to put this on the next agenda. Treasurer

Olson asked if Chief Hansell would see if the commissioners are planning to rewrite the contract and we would need time to review it. Trustee Stewart asked if we could get the new contact information by the special meeting. Treasurer Olson said it would most likely be the regular board meeting so we could have time for Attorney Cross to review it.

4. *Update on Water Tower:* President Samples said there really isn't anything to say on this. Mr. English said they are working on the concrete. He said the engineers gave them some small things that can be done but waiting on the other items. Trustee Butler asked if this could be kept as a regular update item under his monthly report.

5. *Update on Tornado Sirens:* President Samples said everything was going great until the last tornado and the siren by the funeral home did not work. Chief Hansell called it in, and they found a blown fuse. It was fixed by the next morning. All 3 sirens now work. President Samples pulled information from the internet and got information from Mr. McCarty to determine how to bid for new sirens. Trustee Stewart said she thought we already had a bid that we all agreed on. Treasurer Olson said that was just a quote from GTSI. Trustee Stewart said that she thought the board talked about it and everyone was on the same page. Trustee Retzer said he thought the board decided to put it out for bids. Trustee Stewart said she is still confused because she thought this had all been decided a while ago. Chief Hansell said they have been discussing this for 3 years and his frustration is that he received the quote back in 2023 and still nothing has been done. The quote we received is from the company that does all the sirens in the surrounding area and the only difference is that the cost went up. The company has all of the radio frequencies that are required. Trustee Stewart will say again she does not remember the board deciding and the decision she agreed to at a committee of the whole meeting they were going with GTSI and it was supposed to be an action item. Past that she does not know what happened. Trustee Retzer said we should make this an action item. Attorney Cross said this would have to be bid. Trustee Stewart said let's start it and get it done. She said she is not sure why we are researching this again. President Samples said because it is $40,000 per siren. She said she gets that, but we have our Chief telling us it is going to work and GTSI is servicing every other siren in the area, what is the issue. Olson said there is a certain amount where you have to put purchases out for bid.

   Trustee Stewart wonders why that did not happen in 2023. Get the bid done, why are we researching again just put it out for bid. President Samples said he is not researching he has to put together the bid. Chief Hansell said he was under the impression we put it in the budget for this year. Treasurer Olson said we can put it in the budget, but it still has to go out for bid. If that is the direction the board wants, we will do it. Trustee Preston said to start the process so we can get the ball rolling, so we do not have any health and safety issues. Trustee Retzer asked who is going to initiate the process. President Samples said he has it all together unless someone else would like to do it. Trustee Stewart said it is not her job but wants to know what the process is, how long it will take, etc. Treasurer

Olson said we have to put the bid specification sheet together, publish it in certain papers, have a bid opening and bring the winning bid to the board. President Samples said it would take 30-60 days. Asst Chief Salcido asked if the quote from GTSI was for all sirens or just one. He would suggest putting the bid request out for all of them, so they match the siren at Loves. Chief Hansell said the quote is to match the one at Loves. Trustee Butler asked if we could include a request for one or two sirens in the bid specs. She also asked when we could have the bid specs ready and if the board needs to review those. Treasurer Olson said we just have to sit down with Chief Hansell and get all the specifications together and the board does not need to review the bid spec sheet. Trustee Butler asked if we could have it by the next board meeting. President Samples said he is not promising anything and reminded the board the process could take 30-60 days.

## Old Business

## New Business

1. *Old Ordinances:* Trustee Stewart asked if we go back to Morgan County Animal Control how do we get the old animal control ordinance off the books. Attorney Cross said we can go in and vacate the old ordinance. Treasurer Olson said we need to have a conversation about old ordinances and not just randomly vacating ordinances.

2. *Health Insurance:* Treasurer Olson advised the board that the quotes for the health insurance came back and there is an increase of $40,000 to keep the current coverage for our employees. We have worked with the insurance company and BC/BS has an option that we can offer different plans to our employees. We are planning to offer a different plan to our employees that only has a 5% increase with some changes. We will pay for that coverage and if any employees want to keep the current coverage levels, they will have to pay the difference. This is about all we can do with the current budget.

**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 (5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)), and to discuss a personnel matter under Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)). Motion to adjourn to executive session made by Trustee Retzer, seconded by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken with all approving the motion unanimously.

Motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee Stewart. All were in favor of the motion.

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

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Mindy Olson, Deputy Village Clerk

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent:

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CORPORATE SEAL
1911
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