Village of South Jacksonville

Mayor Richard Samples *Trustee Vacant* *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 May 7, 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 recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in except Trustee Stewart. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Attorney Rob Cross, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Rich Evans, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, and Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield. Deputy Clerk and Treasurer Mindy Olson arrived late to the meeting.

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

Comments from the Floor: None

Mayor's Report

- *Fire Department Update:* Chief Evans said they had 45 calls for the month of April. He said the department purchased an extractor to wash their gear with the foreign fire insurance funds. The cost was just under $8,000.
- *Police Department Update:* Chief Hansell reported they had 763 calls for the month of April with 167 traffic stops that resulted in 15 arrests, 1 ordinance violation for soliciting citations and conducted 378 community orientated patrols. The E-tickets system is up and running but they are having a few issues. They received a grant from

the CPA and are using some of those funds to upgrade a few laptops in squad cars. The department is also upgrading the computers in the office as they received a deal on some refurbished computers. Chief Hansell asked if the department can get another grant from the Tourism Fund for propaganda to hand out at upcoming events. Chief Hansell asked how the Trustees felt about their officers having hand tattoos. He is not opposed to it but would like the board's thoughts. Attorney Cross asked if it was in the union contract. Chief Hansell said no it is just policy. Most of the Trustees have no opinion on the matter.

• *Public Works Update:* Superintendent English reported that Village cleanup started today and will run through Saturday at noon. The truck wash broke ground last week and is making good progress. They have been working on the park and splash pad getting it ready to open. Finishing up on the water tower, they have 2 more legs to do. Mr. English said they are talking about putting a grinder in the sewer by the new truck wash, but nothing has been decided.

• *Code Compliance/Enforcement Reports:* Mrs. Beddingfield said they went to court on Monday and there were 9 cases presented. One will be paying the fines through a wage garnishment. Another person is supposed to have the property cleaned up by June 30th. She said the fines have been paid for 1504 South Clay, but the trash has not been cleaned up. The property at 1908 Southview is cleaned up and has until May 30th to advise her of their plans for the property.

Chief Hansell issued a ticket for solicitation and the fine was paid. However, President Samples said he got called out by the judge because our ordinance does not specifically say anything about kids selling items. He has included a note in the packet detailing what the judge has suggested. The Village issued 15 building permits for $712.47. The total value of repairs is $247,715.20.

• *Treasurer's Report*: President Samples told the Trustees there is a Treasurer's report in the packet. Treasurer Olson said she apologized for not having any budget information in the packets but would have a draft for the Board at the committee of the whole meeting.

Action Items

1. *Approval of Payables in the Amount of $445.620.60*: President Samples asked for a motion to approve the payables in the amount of $445,620.60. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Preston, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken with all approving the payables unanimously.

2. *Approval of Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2026:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the report as presented. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Retzer, seconded by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken with all approving the grant as presented.

Discussion Items

1. *Rural Fire Fees:* President Samples turned the topic over to Attorney Cross. Attorney Cross said that we have an ordinance in place and there have been discussions about stair stepping the increase. He said the one thing the Board has to be able to do if there are questions is to show where the number came from. There should be a rationale for the increase. Attorney Cross suggests that Chief Evans come to the Committee of the Whole meeting with the numbers to show how the increase was determined. President Samples said Chief Evans did provide a summary sheet of calls for service in rural coverage area. He feels that someone needs to dig deeper and substantiate why the rates need increased. Chief Evans said one factor is the cost of the upkeep of the equipment.

2. *FOIA Request/Social Media System:* Chief Hansell said there have been a few changes to the laws relating to FOIA requests over the past year and he feels we need a better system to track and complete the requests that come in. He explained how the system the Civic Plus has and the quote received. In addition, the Village's social media also falls under the FOIA system. The system will be available for all Village departments. Attorney Cross has not used the system but knows of municipalities that have. He said the system does not do the FOIA response but manages it. Chief Hansell said this is something that we really need to do. President Samples said it is not that we need to do it, but we have to do it. Chief Hansell said the cost is about $10,000 for the FOIA request system and about $4,000 for the social media archiving. Attorney Cross said it is a lot of money, but it is worth it.

   Treasurer Olson also presented the quote for SMARSH which is a social media archiving system. She felt the cost for this service from Civic Plus was rather large and wanted to look for other options. SMARSH only does social media archiving. The cost for their services is about $1,400. The archives last for 7 years unless we want them to be held longer. They do all social media including YouTube. Both companies collect data using the same methods. Trustee Retzer said there is a very big difference in the price. Chief Hansell said he does not have a preference in companies he just wants something. Attorney Cross said if SMARSH is cheaper and represents that they do the same thing he sees no problem with it. Treasurer Olson said she suggests getting Civic Plus for the FOIA request system and SMARSH for the social media archiving. Trustee Retzer would like someone to come back to the Board with a definite proposal.

3. *Parks:* Treasurer Olson advised the Board that she emailed them the updated quotes and pictures of the proposed parks. If this is something the Board is looking at then she can start the grant process. Ms. Olson said she could ask the representative of the company to come to a meeting so the Board could ask questions. She reiterated that there are 3 different quotes for 3 different parks.

4. *Fire Truck:* President Samples said everything was going well but then we received the invoices for the new radios that were required for the Fire Department. The cost for just the Fire Department is roughly $125,000. That ate up the money we had set aside for the fire truck. President Samples also put together 4 packets of other fire trucks that are available. It is his opinion that the truck offered by JFD is too high. He has no problem trying to negotiate a deal with JFD for a lower cost for their ladder truck. He does not feel there is a rush on this because of the mutual aid from JFD. Treasurer Olson said she did find a couple grant options that she is looking into. She reached out to the state but there was nothing available at this time.

   Trustee Butler asked Chief Evans what they are looking for in a fire truck. Chief Evans said they would like something like the ladder truck they have now. It is a Pierce ladder truck, preferring anything newer than a 2000 with 300 gal tank. The pump should be 1200 gallons per minute, and the ladder should be 100' with a platform for safety.

   President Samples said whatever JFD has would cover us for the hotels. Chief Evans said it would depend on if JFD is available at the time. They could be on a call with their ladder truck and could not assist. Chief Evans is concerned they have done a lot of work to improve their ISO rating, and it will drop again if we do not have a ladder truck. He also feels that he has been dragging Chief Summers along and he needs to let him know if we are still interested in the JFD ladder truck. President Samples suggests that he, Chief Evans and Chief Summers get together to discuss this further. Trustee Retzer asked what year the JFD ladder truck is. Chief Evans said it is 2002 with 20,000 miles and a 300-gallon tank. President Samples feels like it is a lot of money and we should do more research. He suggests the Board continue this discussion at the committee of the whole meeting.

5. *Committee of the Whole Meeting:* President Samples proposed May 21, 2026, as the COTW meeting at 6:30pm. All agreed on that date.

Old Business

New Business

1. *Solicitors:* President Samples handed out the ordinance and memo relating to the solicitation ordinance. He feels we need to have something in the ordinance to address school children. Attorney Cross will handle it.

2. *Fiber Optics:* Trustee Retzer asked who was putting fiber optics on Minor Drive. Superintendent English said it is Frontier. There are 2 different contractors that have submitted JULIE requests so he is not sure who the actual contractor will be.

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Mindy Olson, Deputy Village Clerk

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

(SEAL)