Village of South Jacksonville

Mayor Richard Samples	*Trustee Tom Jordan*	*Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart*
Deputy Village Clerk Mindy Olson	*Trustee Steve Retzer*	*Trustee Michael Preston*
Attorney Roland Cross	*Trustee Christina Butler*	*Trustee Vacant*

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday June 4, 2026 @ 7:00p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance led by Gary Hadden and recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in attendance. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Attorney Brandon Clark, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Rich Evans, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, and Treasurer and Deputy Village Clerk Mindy Olson. Not in attendance was Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield,

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 reported they had 48 calls for the month of May. The new hires are doing great they are very active and showing up for calls. First Christian Church is buying 2 houses and asked if the department would like to use the houses for training. Chief Evans would love to go in and burn them but there

is a lot of paperwork associated with that process. However, they are going to be able to go in and use the smoke machine to practice search and rescue and other training.

•*Police Department Update:* Chief Hansell reported 819 calls for the month of May including 202 traffic stops, 413 community orientated policing and 5 arrests. The tornado sirens are up and operational. They are gearing up for fair season, 4th of July and National Night Out.

•*Public Works Update:* Superintendent English said the splash pad is up and running. The sewer lift station repairs have been completed. He is looking into a possible grinder at the truck wash for the sewer. He is worried about what gets put down there and it would help with faster flow. The guys are working on flushing hydrants. Mr. English reported that he received the EPA evaluation back and there is just some petty stuff on it. He plans to reach out to Benton to move forward with the water tower.

•*Code Compliance/Enforcement Reports:* President Samples said the two houses on Southview Court are getting cleaned up. He also reported that the Village issued 12 building permits totaling $714.96 with a value of $147,991.00.

•*Treasurer's Report*: Treasurer Olson reported that she has reached out to the grant writer who helped us a few years ago to assist with submitting a grant for the radios. She is also going to submit a grant to the Gary Sisne Foundation for the fire truck, and she received the updated TIF numbers. Ms. Olson will be talking with the department heads about finalizing their budgets and will have preliminary budget ready to present at the committee of the whole meeting. Ms. Olson followed up with the Code Red company and the contract does not renew until February 2027, so she is not going to cancel the contract. The company is giving a credit for the hack on any renewal contracts so we will not be getting anything since we will not be renewing the contract.

Action Items

1. *Approval of Payables in the Amount of $401,687.28:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the payables in the amount of $401,687.28. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Jordan, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the payables unanimously.

2. *Approval of Treasurers Report for the month of March 2026:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the report as presented. Motion to approve the report was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Butler. Roll call was taken with all approving the report as presented.

3. *Approval to Purchase a 2002 Pierce 100' Aerial Platform Ladder Truck from the City of Jacksonville in the amount of $200,000.00:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the purchase as presented. He said Treasurer Olson is actively looking for grants. It is his understanding the Village is putting $170,000.00 from the Tourism and TIF funds and the Fire Department is putting in $30,000.00. Trustee Butler asked what that does to our parks plan. President Samples said it will set us back, but it will really not set us back. Treasurer Olson said the park plan may not

happen during this year so it may not have any effect on Tourism. Treasurer Olson advised the Board that she is waiting for the bill of sale and agreement from the City and will have the attorneys review it before anyone executes it. Trustee Stewart said she is never a fan of taking funds out of Tourism; however, the fire truck is used for our hotels. Trustee Retzer said his thought process is that 75% of the reason we are buying the ladder truck is because of the hotels. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Jordan, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken with all approving the purchase as presented.

4. *Approval of Tourism Grant Application for Morgan County Fair in the amount of $30,000.00:* President Samples presented the grant application for Morgan County Fair. President Samples introduced Gary Hadden who is President of the Fair Board. Mr. Hadden said they use the funds to promote 3 events each year. The events this year are horse shows, truck/tractor pulls and the demolition derby. He also said the grant actually supports all of the fair.

   Trustee Retzer asked what the budget is for the fair. Mr. Hadden said it was over $500,000 last year and probably closer to $700,000 this year. President Samples said the Morgan County Fair is one of the few fairs in the area that make money. Mr. Hadden said they put a lot of money back into the grounds. They cleaned up the grandstands last year, new asphalt, increased parking and upgrading electrical. Trustee Retzer asked if we can get a pass to the fair. Mr. Hadden said he could provide those.

   Trustee Butler asked if they could bring a bus derby to the fair. Mr. Hadden said they had looked into that before. President Samples asked if the tanks were coming back this year. This year they are coming back. It will be a little different this year. The fair is bringing in the Gibson Girls to perform. They do not charge for the event but accept donations. The fair matches all donations received and gives it to the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

   President Samples asked how many years the Village has given to the fair. Mr. Hadden said about 5 or so. Trustee Stewart asked how the Village is promoted during the fair. Mr. Hadden said through banners, announced at the events and on the digital board during the events. The Police Department has 4 banners hung throughout the fairgrounds.

   Trustee Retzer asked if they are able to estimate how many heads in beds it puts in the Village. Mr. Hadden said truthfully no, they do not record that data. He said they do pull people from at least 10 different states and when Cody Johnson was here, they pulled from 20 different states. Motion to approve the grant was made by Trustee Retzer, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the grant as presented.

5. *Approval of Salary Increases as Presented for all Non-Union Employees Retroactive Back to May 1, 2026:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the salary increases as presented. Treasurer Olson advised the Board that Amy Martin has

resigned effective June 9th. Trustee Butler asked if we need to look at adjusting the pay rates since there was a large discrepancy between the AP Clerk position and the Water Clerk. President Samples advised the Board that he and Treasurer Olson have discussed moving Jackie Kennedy to the AP Clerk position and hire a new Water Clerk. This plan makes sense because then there is a back up in place for the Water Clerk position. Trustee Butler asked if we were increasing Jackie to the pay rate that Amy was making. Treasurer Olson said no. There may be an opportunity to split the difference, it just depends on the applications we receive and the person that is hired. Trustee Stewart asked if the posting in the paper was for the Water Clerk position. Ms. Olson said she posted for an office position. Trustee Butler asked if the Board approves the new higher. Ms. Olson said they would. Trustee Preston asked if Jackie would have both AP Clerk duties and Water Clerk duties. Treasurer Olson said no she will just be a back up to the water clerk if that person is out of the office. Trustee Stewart asked if Amy was the Office Manager. Treasurer Olson advised that she was not sure exactly what titles she held and if at the time of the large raise an added title came with it. She said that her and President Samples have discussed the position and do not feel there is a need for an Office Manager position at the Village. Superintendent English will be over the Water Clerk and Treasurer Olson is over the AP Clerk. Motion to approve the salary increases was made by Trustee Jordan, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken with all approving the salary increases as presented.

6. *Approval of Resolution Adopting the 2025 Morgan County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan:* President Samples presented the resolution and advised the Board that it is his understanding that if the Board does not approve this, we will not be eligible for FEMA money. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Trustee Retzer, seconded by Trustee Stewart. Roll call was taken with all approving the resolution as presented.

Discussion Items

1. *Parks:* President Samples said we are waiting on the new brochure from the park people. One of the gentlemen that we met is Bob Newport who is from South Jacksonville and his mother still lives here. Treasurer Olson said during the meeting we asked about what we would do with the old playground equipment. They said there is a company out of Rockford called Kids Around the World. That organization will come in and take down the old equipment and haul it away. They will then refurbish the equipment and ship it overseas to other impoverished countries.

   Mr. Newport told us during the meeting about a playground that he designed and is being installed at a park up north. We loved the design and asked them to incorporate it into a design for Godfrey Park. In addition, they have some playground equipment that is in a lower price range that we are looking at for Coronado Park. Treasurer Olson said they told us to get ahold of Jamie Cosgriff who could help us with the OSLAD grant. She

reached out to Mr. Cosgriff, and he said the main issue with the OSLAD grant is that most places do not get it on their first try but should on the second try. Other options would be DCEO grants or Tracy Family Foundation. If we were to order the parks now, they would come in the first part of September. There was discussion about waiting to do Godfrey Park until we get the OSLAD grant and perhaps building Coronado Park first because the funding may be available sooner and a lot less money.

Treasurer Olson said another item that was discussed during the meeting is turf versus mulch at the parks. Turf is very expensive and gets quite hot so it may be a better option to go with grass spaces and have rubberized mulch around the equipment. Mr. Newport actually suggested we do not get turf. Treasurer Olson said with the way the funding is now it is a real possibility that we could do Coronado Park first.

Trustee Stewart asked if the equipment for Godfrey Park is ADA compliant. Treasurer Olson said no it is completely handicapped acceptable. The big toy will replace the same area and the swings. It will be very similar to what is there now. Trustee Stewart said for the new park if we are looking at a $30,000 toy it will probably not take up the entire space. Ms. Olson said yes that is what they are looking at and putting it together for us. There will be the toy, swings, some benches and ride on toys. She hopes to have designs by the next meeting.

Trustee Stewart asked what the plan was for the blank space at Godfrey Park to the east of the pavilion. President Samples said at one time they were going to put a ball diamond there. So, for now it is just green space. Trustee Stewart said it just looks unfinished so perhaps that could be something for future discussions.

2. *Propaganda Items for the PD and FD:* President Samples said the Police and Fire Departments give out items at the Morgan County Fair, National Night Out and the Steam Show. Trustee Stewart asked if they count Halloween as well. The Police Department does not give out those types of items for Halloween, but the Fire Department does. Trustee Stewart said she is a big proponent for whatever they need to give out because she thinks that is a great way to promote our emergency services. Chief Evans asked if there was a budget for the items. Chief Hansell said $7,500 per department. Trustee Retzer asked if this could be an action item for the next meeting. Treasurer Olson said it is usually just a budget set for each department.

3. *Committee of the Whole Meeting June 18, 2026:* President Samples said that Treasurer Olson will not be available that date and it is also the night before Juneteenth. He does not see a need for the committee of the whole meeting. All Trustees were in agreement.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Executive Session: Trustee Retzer requested a brief executive session on a personnel matter. 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 Stewart, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the motion unanimously.

Motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Preston. 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 Preston. 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) VILLAGE OF SOUTH JACKSONVILLE CORPORATE SEAL 1911 ILLINOIS