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 April 16, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance led by Eric Hansell and was 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 Rich Evans, Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield, and Treasurer and Deputy Village Clerk Mindy Olson. Those not in attendance were Attorney Rob Cross and Public Works Superintendent Brian English,

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

Comments from the Floor: President Samples introduced the representatives from Prairieland Heritage Museum to present their grant application. They are requesting a grant in the amount of $30,000 this year. The entertainment costs have doubled as has most everything else. They will have entertainment all 3 days and are adding more things this year. President Samples asked about the golf carts. They golf carts are what they bring in from an outside company for people to rent. The organization pays for the golf carts the members use for official business. The cost is $3,900 for 10 golf carts and 2 shuttles. President Samples said he feels that is high and they could do better. Trustee Retzer suggested this be placed as an action item at the next meeting. Treasurer Olson asked if the

Village will be listed on the arm bands again this year. She said no someone else already claimed that. Trustee Stewart asked if the Village could get back on the rotation for the arm bands. She said absolutely they will get it for us.

Discussion Items

1. *Parks:* Treasurer Olson advised the Board she is just providing information so some decisions can start to be made. She and Superintendent English have reviewed Godfrey Park, and the splash pad is good for now. The equipment will need some work. The Board will need to decide what to do with that park. Treasurer Olson said before she can look for grants there needs to be a plan in place. The thought is to have an outside company come in set up the equipment rather than our guys. Trustee Stewart said she has the estimates from June 2025. She can get copies for everyone. The cost of replacing the big toy in Godfrey Park was about $130,000. Is everyone still thinking that Godfrey Park is the one to start with? Trustee Jordan asked if the Board plans to set aside any money for toys at Dewey Park. That is the plan but not in this budget. Treasurer Olson said she is looking at the OSLAD grant which would be high enough for the Godfrey Park plans.

   President Samples said he thinks we should stick with the program and address Godfrey Park first. He would like to look at possible co-sponsors to help with the park. Chief Hansell said he spoke with Stephen Symons with Kiwanis who would be interested in helping with the new park on Coronado. Treasurer Olson will reach out to the company that has given the quotes and ask for updated prices.

2. *Proposed Fees Ordinance:* Chief Hansell has not made it to speak with Labor Drive to discuss the lockout fees. His suggestion is don't charge them, or we just stop doing the lockout assistance. It is a liability issue for the Village and could cause more issues with other apartment buildings wanting the same service. He said they are set up for collecting the fees through the police department. The fees for registered sex offenders and violent offenders are set by statutes so there is nothing to include in the ordinance. Chief Hansell would like to review the vehicle lockout fees further. President Samples said the proposed ordinance only includes 4 fees on it. One was for fingerprinting and there were no concerns with that fee. Chief Hansell would like Attorney Cross to look into the document delivery fee closer because civil service is typically done by the county sheriff's department by statute. He wants to know if his department can legally do the delivery and service for the private sector.

   President Samples asked if the Labor Drive lockout assistance fees should be removed. Chief Hansell would like to remove it and stop providing the service. The only reason the department does the service is so Labor Drive does not have to pay their employees to do it. Trustee Retzer said he is in complete agreement with doing away with the service. Chief Hansell will review the ordinance and report back.

3. *Fire Truck Lease:* Chief Evans said the Village really needs to do something about the ladder truck soon. The ISO rating will be affected. Chief Evans and Chief Summers of the JFD came up with a lease to own agreement to purchase their truck. The agreement is for 3 years with no interest. Chief Evans said there are other trucks out there, but the sales rep from Pierce said the JFD truck is a steal. JFD is about 6 months out from getting their new truck. Trustee Retzer said we have been kicking this down the road for several meetings, so we need to put it to a vote. It will either get approved or it won't.

   President Samples said his opinion is the price of the truck is way too high. Do we know if the truck has passed all the tests. Chief Evans said it has been tested and everything is good. Trustee Stewart said she thought we were waiting to see what happened with the fire district. Trustee Retzer said we know now that did not pass. President Samples said he has looked at sites to see what the department's old truck would sell for. It appears to be only worth salvage value. He asked if Chief Evans had looked into fixing the old truck. Chief Evans said Pierce will not put a new ladder on the truck. The only option would be to turn the old truck into a tanker truck and get rid of the department's other tanker truck.

   Trustee Stewart asked where the money for the new truck would come from. Treasurer Olson would like to see it split out to 4 years from a finance standpoint. She agrees that the amount may be in the budget, but that does not mean the cash is available. We also need to see what we can get out of the old truck. Chief Evans said the main reason we need the ladder truck is for the hotels. Treasurer Olson said she has already looked at TIF and Tourism Funds as possible funding sources. Chief Evans asked if he needs to ask JFD about spreading the payments over 4 years. Treasurer Olson asked why JFD is pushing so hard to sell the truck to the Village rather than making double the money selling it to someone else. Chief Evans said they want the truck to stay local. Trustee Retzer talked to Chief Evans after the last meeting, and he feels better about the deal but would like to ask for $50,000 over 5 years.

   Trustee Stewart wants to have a pay structure in place before the vote. She will vote no if there is not a set way to pay for the truck. President Samples said we will look into any funds out there and bring that all back to the Board. Trustee Butler asked if there is anything the fire department can put toward the first payment out of their fundraising funds. Chief Evans said not really because since the failed fire district happened all of the fundraisers they have had have been set aside for that. Maybe around $10,000. President Samples asked how much the fire department has in their fundraising fund. Chief Evans said around $50,000. Treasurer Olson asked if the Foreign Fire Insurance funds could be used toward the purchase of the truck. Chief Evans said no. He said he has been talking to someone about selling the old fire truck. Trustee Butler asked how fast the truck can be sold. Chief Evans said he doesn't know. She asked if President Samples is going to keep talking to Mayor Ezard about the JFD truck. He will continue talks.

4. *Rural Fire Fees:* Chief Evans said he brought this up a couple meetings ago and the Board wanted a proposal. He presented the Board with a proposal to raise the fees this year to $150 and another $25 each year thereafter. Trustee Retzer would like this to be an action item. President Samples asked if the fire department is obligated to go to a fire regardless of if they have the rural fire fee subscription. Chief Evans said yes, they would respond to the call. President Samples then asked why a rural customer should pay the fee. Chief Evans said if they have not paid the fees, they will receive a hefty bill. President Samples asked what the benefits are for having the subscription. Chief Evans said there is a state statute that says you can charge for the initial call, per apparatus and per personnel up to $75 per hour. If the customer has a subscription he does not charge for the initial call but will charge for the other items. Generally having a subscription would help a customer with their insurance. President Samples asked if Chief Evans is concerned, they will lose customers if we raise the fees. The City of Jacksonville charges almost 7% of assessed value of the house for fire protection. Chief Evans said there may be some heartache, but the customers need to understand what the coverage entails.

   President Samples clarified with Chief Evans that it is his recommendation to increase the fees to $150. Chief Evans said yes unless the Board wants to increase the fee more. He would also like to set this money aside somehow to go toward rural fire costs. Trustee Stewart asked where it goes now. Treasurer Olson said it goes to the General Fund to help pay for fireman costs. Trustee Butler feels the rate should be higher. She is paying for peace of mind. Trustee Preston suggested the fees go up to $200 for this year, $250 for next year and $300 for the following year. Chief Evans is fine with those amounts. Trustee Butler agrees with those amounts. Treasurer Olson will get with Attorney Cross to draft the ordinance.

Old Business

New Business

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 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)