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 April 2, 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 Judy Tighe and 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, Officer Brian Wilson, Fire Chief Rich Evans, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, and Treasurer Mindy Olson. Police Chief Eric Hansell and Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield were not in attendance.

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

Comments from the Floor: None

Mayor's Report

- *Fire Department Update:* Chief Evans said he does not have a call count for March yet.
- *Police Department Update:* Officer Wilson reported 817 calls for the month of March with 181 traffic stops that resulted in 49 citations. They also had 7 criminal citations during the month.

• *Public Works Update:* Superintendent English reported that the dates for the Village cleanup may have to change because we have not heard back from GFL about the dumpsters. They are continuing to work on the lead lines and have some paperwork to fill out for grants. Valves fixed and a new hydrant were put in on Vandalia. They are going to be putting mulch around the equipment at Godfrey park and hope to open it up around the first of May.

• *Code Compliance/Enforcement Reports:* Officer Wilson reported that Mrs. Beddingfield is working with the family of the property at 1908 Southview Court to get it cleaned up by April 12th and have an action plan in place. Also the property at 1906 Southview Court is in foreclosure so they are working with MCS to get that property cleaned up. They are issuing notices to appear to the owner of the property's at 1617 Elmwood and 222 West Pennsylvania. Officer Wilson said she has also started working on vehicle violations. There is a sheriff's sale scheduled for 1515 S. Main on April 28th.

• *Treasurer's Report*: Treasurer Olson reported that she put in their packets information about grants that are available for the parks including the OSLAD grant that was mentioned several meetings ago. She said that her and Brian have discussed this and unfortunately it needs to go back to the board because they will need to decide what they want done with the parks. A plan has to be in place before we can go after any grants. President Samples said this is something we need to discuss in the committee of the whole meeting. A decision has to be made. Trustee Retzer asked which park we were talking about. President Samples said the idea was to fix Godfrey Park first.

Action Items

1. *Approval of Payables in the Amount of $156,502.12*: President Samples asked for a motion to approve the payables in the amount of $156,502.12. Trustee Jordan said he noticed the amount does not mirror what is on the payables list. Treasurer Olson said the difference is the Tourism checks in the amount of $12,508 and the two checks out of TIF. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the payables unanimously.

2. *Approval of Board of Trustees meeting minutes for January 22, 2026, Special Board Meeting, February 5, 2026, Board Meeting, February 19, 2026, Special Board and Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 5, 2026, Board Meeting and March 19, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken with all approving the grant as presented.

3. *Approval of Tourism Grant Application for Abraham Lincole Council, Scouting America 6th Annual Sporting Clays and Trap Showdown in the amount of $6,000.00:* President Samples introduced Jeff Witten with the Boy Scouts and said they bring in about 100 people, however they promote it to their over 1300 families that participate in scouting in Illinois. They use it

as a fundraiser to support kids and the camp at the lake. They are very appreciative of the Village for the help the past few years. Mr. Witten said they also list the Village as a sponsor all year long for various events. President Sample asked how many kids are in scouting in the Jacksonville area. Mr. Witten said about 60. 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.

4. *Approval of Tourism Grant Application for Jacksonville Main Street in the amount of $6,000.00 and use of the Village Billboard:* President Samples introduced Judy Tighe with Jacksonville Main Street. Ms. Tighe said they are in the 10th year. The event is like a community reunion. The event is for the downtown area, but it is also for the community as a whole. She said it is hard to track if the people coming to the event are staying or not, but she sees new faces every year. They also have stuff for kids to do as well. It is a wonderful family-friendly event. Trustee Jordan asked if they have all the acts lined up. Ms. Tighe said yes and they have extended the hours again. The bands will play from 6pm-9p. There are 2 acts returning from last year. The billboard helps for more awareness of the events. 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 Site Plan for Proposed Truck Wash:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the plan as presented. President Samples said nothing much has changed since the last time they were here. Trustee Retzer asked if a traffic study has been done. Mr. Burke said there has not been a traffic study done. There is not any extra traffic anticipated with the truck wash. It will mainly be trucks already going to Loves. President Samples also said there are extra parking spots at the truck wash. They are hoping to have 50 trucks per day. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee. Roll call was taken with all approving the plan as presented.

6. *Approval of Tyler Defrates, Marcus Jackson and Stone Lambie as Volunteer Firefighters for the Village of South Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Department:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the hires as presented. Chief Evans said Tyler's dad and uncle were both members of the department, and he has had a lot of fire classes. He was also on the Waverly Fire Department for a while. Marcus has a little experience as he has been with the Beardstown Fire Department. He has moved to the Village. Stone is a member of the Public Works Department with the Village. These hires will bring the total up to 25. He is planning on promoting Evan Davidson up to Captain to replace Ryan Deeder. The new hires will be on probation for 1 year. Motion to approve the was made by Trustee Jordan, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the ordinance as presented.

Discussion Items

1. *Ordinance to Establish Registration and Other Fees:* Attorney Cross said that Chief Hansell has requested over the years to establish an ordinance to establish fees. Some of the fees are required by statute. We will be removing the labor drive lockout fee for now so Chief Hansell can speak with the owners of Labor Drive. One suggestion Attorney Cross made is that we specify that the fingerprinting fee be for the card style only. He said many municipalities charge different fees for different types of fingerprinting.

Officer Wilson said the biggest reason they put this fee in is because there are a lot of traveling nurses that come in for fingerprints and the card style is required. President Samples said this will be reviewed again at the committee of the whole meeting. Trustee Butler asked if we have the ability to collect fees. Treasurer Olson said we have worked out with Sheryl at the Police Department to collect the fees and have her set up to process credit card payments as well. She will also be able to accept payments for golf cart permits as well. Trustee Retzer asked if there are damages done during lockout assistance, is the Village liable. Attorney Cross said he would suggest if this is approved we could create forms that an individual would sign releasing us from damage liability.

2. *Lease Fire Truck:* President Samples presented a lease to own agreement that Chief Evans brought to the Board from the Jacksonville Fire Department for purchase of their ladder truck. The lease includes a purchase price of $250,000 to be made in 3 payments over 3 years. He said we need to discuss this during the committee of the whole meeting to see if there are any other options. However, is there any discussion for tonight. Trustee Retzer said he is not very comfortable with that and wants to discuss it further at the committee of the whole meeting.

3. *Committee of the Whole Meeting:* President Samples proposed April 16, 2026, as the COTW meeting at 6:30pm. All agreed on that date.

Old Business

1. *Fire District: Trustee* Retzer asked about the Fire District and any ballot challenges. Chief Evans said he had been in contact with some people and found out there were 6 that did not have it on the ballot. There is really no solution to that problem. The residents cannot go back and vote. Chief Evans said the results show the fire district lost by 15 votes. He is pleased that it did pass in the Village.

   Trustee Retzer asked whose ballots it should have been on? Should Lynnville have it on their ballots. Chief Evans said yes and it was on those ballots. There were some people off of Route 67 that did not have it on their ballots.

   President Samples said he feels it was an educational experience for the Fire Department because now they know where to advertise and who to contact. Chief Evans said he is not happy with the Farm Bureau. They put out a letter a few days prior to the election that contained inaccurate information.

New Business

1. *Rural Fire Fees:* Chief Evans said he feels the rural fire subscription should be increased. He said each resident on the list gets an invoice for $100. He thinks it is time to increase it. He said the fee used to be $50 and was increased to $100 in 2019 or 2020.

   Trustee Retzer asked what a house fire in Lynnville would cost the Village. Chief Evans said it would depend on how many guys he had go to the fire. He said we pay the firefighters $20 per hour plus fuel for the trucks. It would also depend on how long they were on the scene. President Samples said so roughly $500 for the Village to go a fire like that. He asked what the department charges. Chief Evans said per state statue they can charge up to $75 per hour per firefighter and $250 for the call. He also feels there is an amount he can charge per apparatus.

   President Samples said he has done some research, and the proposed Fire District for the Village would have charged .4% of the EAV. The city is charging 6.93% of EAV. Chief Evans said the most you can do for a fire district is .4%. He said we could do a flat rate or a percentage for each residence. However, that will take more work.

   Chief Evans said he mentioned to President Samples and Treasurer Olson that the list we have of list of people that live in the rural fire area. That list is not accurate and does not include everyone. He wants to update the list and include everyone in the coverage area. President Samples said there were 249 letters sent out last year bringing in $23,400. He asked if Chief Evans had an idea of what he would like to raise the fee to? Chief Evans said he would like to see $200-250.

   Chief Evans said the starting point is to determine who is in the coverage area and make sure they are on the mailing list. The letters usually go out around this time, but he does not think it will be an issue if we delay the mailing for a couple months. Truste Retzer asked what needs to take place? Attorney Cross said someone needs to make a proposal and present it to the Board. Chief Evans will work on getting the information together and updated. Trustee Retzer would like to receive a proposal to discuss at a future meeting. Trustee Butler asked how many currently pay the fee. President Samples said 234 paid last year out of 249 letters. Trustee Retzer said the fire department responds regardless of whether the rural fire fee is paid or not. Trustee Butler asked who pays for the fire then. Chief Evans said it varies depending on insurance coverage and other factors.

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 Butler, 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

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