

**Village of Arrowsmith**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 1, 2024**

Present: Chad Walden, Cheryl West, Taryn Cross, Ray Wilson

Absent: Brent Beyer (He arrived at 7:12pm)

Guests: Nancy Black

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all present.

All board members present reviewed the July 2024 meeting minutes and voted to approve the minutes with no changes.

Ray Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes, Taryn Cross seconded the motion.

Ayes: Cheryl West, Taryn Cross, Ray Wilson

Nays: None

**Public Comment**

Nancy Black asked about her culvert and the size of it being too small. She asked Chad what could be done to get a new culvert or a bigger culvert. Chad explained that not a lot can be done right now about the culvert size but the whole Tipsord St. drainage issue needs to be addressed. He stated that the village needs to also see if there is a drainage line on the east side of the road or if one would need to be installed. Additional research will be done to look at addressing the drainage along the Tipsord Street.

**SAFPD Representative District Report**

The SAFPD had a total of 10 calls for the month of July 2024. Saybrook had 1 fire and 9 EMS; Arrowsmith had no calls.

**Finance**

Chad Walden provided the board with all account balances in the CIBM and Illinois Funds accounts for the month of July 2024. The monthly financial report was not yet available since it is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month. There were not any additional questions or comments on the financial reports.

**Property and Grounds**

N/A

## **Water/Garbage and Recycling**

Chad provided the monthly revenue report for July 2024 for water and garbage collections.

Chris Ebert Company has begun planning for the work on well pump #2 replacement. Materials have been ordered and the work should be completed within the next two weeks. It was determined that another 40 feet of pipe will be added to lower the level of the pump in the well.

## **Zoning and Permit Reviews**

107 East Crosson garage build: Taryn Cross made the board aware of this permit request. He and the homeowner have been in communication but he has not received the completed permit request documents yet. Taryn Cross and Chad will review the request once it has been received. No permit has been issued and we are still waiting on an actual drawing from the contractor. There was an issue with the setback of the pad for the building and the contractor had to move the forms back from the walk to meet the village setback requirements.

## **Ordinance Processes and Enforcement**

It is believed that a homeless individual is living in a tent on a North Oak property. We do not have an ordinance on the books to address this at this point. Chad is working with Kate Swise (our attorney) to determine what changes need to be made to our village ordinances to address this situation.

Chad went over a model ordinance from IML and that had been modified for the villages use that would “regulate public camping within corporate boundaries and other actions in connection therewith.” The board discussed the content of the ordinance and determined that it was needed to address any potential issues in the future should this issue arise.

Taryn Cross made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 9.11, Cheryl West seconded.

Ayes: Brent Beyer, Taryn Cross, Cheryl West, Ray Wilson

Nays:

## **Streets/Alleys and Drainage**

2024 Streets program has no update currently. More to come on this next month.

## **Community Relations/Website Information**

Community center rentals for 2024: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup> (Barn keepers), November 9<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. All these dates are on the website calendar.

Cheryl West let all board members present know that the fundraiser to replace the village signs at each end of town made over \$2600. Cheryl sent out thank you cards to all the sponsors that donated for the event. Cheryl asked if Chad knew of any sign companies that we could use. Chad said that we need to find out who Farmer City used or who Heyworth used for their town signs. We need very durable and weather resistant sign materials. More to come on this.

Chad discussed with the board the donation of an oak log with the word ARROWSMITH carved into it (Chad had sent a picture to all board members before the meeting). The log is currently outside of LeRoy at a residence. It must be moved from the homeowner's property by the end of October 2024. Chad stated that he had talked with Benjamin Excavating about moving it and they stated they would be able to safely move it. Chad asked Cheryl West to ask the beautification committee members for ideas as to what would be a nice way to display it and where we should put it.

### **Board Calendar Items**

2023/2024 Audit preparations will begin soon for Chad, Megan, and Andrea. Chad told Megan to reach out to Feller by the end of the month if we have not heard from them regarding audit preparations.

### **America's Small Town Leaders Conference Report from Megan Lopez:**

Megan gave an overview of the conference to all board members present and discussed various topics that were addressed at the conference. Some major takeaways that she addressed are as follows: The main method of obtaining information for a community needs to be a single location sponsored by the community where the public can go for information. For Arrowsmith, this would be the [arrowsmithil.gov](http://arrowsmithil.gov) website. All information needs to come to Megan or Chad to ensure that there is a cohesive narrative from all elected officials and employees of the village. While information obtained from the village's website may be shared by the public on other sites and social media, these should not be the "source" of information for the village and its events. This also addresses any potential legal issues should the village receive a FOIA request regarding the posting of information to the internet as our information is controlled by the village administration on our secured website.

Megan also discussed that the board members and elected officials need to be thinking long-term change to the economic development of the Village of Arrowsmith. Discussions need to be had about what the village can do to attract and foster small businesses within the community. What can the village do to assist with "brick and mortar" options or in hosting a small business fair at the community center. One idea Megan had was adding a "VoA supports local business" banner to the website or page with links to villager's small business websites. Economic growth needs to be at the forefront as the board looks at the future of the village. The village needs to find ways to increase revenue and finding ways to create opportunities for small businesses will be critical for the village's future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.