

**VILLAGE OF BISMARCK**  
Regular Board Meeting  
September 18, 2018

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – President Lewis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Roll** –

Jane Cress	-	PRESENT
Terry Light	-	PRESENT
Jack Luttrell	-	ABSENT
Mary Potter	-	PRESENT
Dave Switzer	-	PRESENT
Karel Volpert	-	PRESENT
Greg Lewis	-	PRESENT
Eric Nesbitt	-	PRESENT
Valerie Moss	-	PRESENT

3. **Approval of the Agenda for September 18, 2018** – On a motion by Dave Switzer and a second by Mary Potter, the agenda was approved.

4. **Public Comments** –

Susan Freedlund suggested that the audience at the Village Board meetings be provided with an agenda to follow along with throughout the meeting, that a microphone be put on the table of board members so that everyone is able to hear all that is being discussed and that board members face the public crowd when speaking.

Resident Cris Moulton of 102 W. South Street expressed her concerns with the ditch work near her residence that was never completed and continues to cause problems with drainage.

Resident Rhonda Royce of 104 W. South Street reported that her ditch is also not draining. The flooded yard of the residence across the street, 103 W. South Street, owned by Dan Wright, is being pumped across the road and filling her ditch and crawlspace with mud and water.

Amanda Huls of 12 Myers Avenue described her sanitary sewer issues of frequent pumping of her septic tank which continues to fill with water. She will continue to work with the Vermilion County Health Department and contractors to find a solution. Water sources are unfound.

In response to a Nuisance Ordinance Violation letter, resident Don Evans reported that he has been dealing with health issues and hospitalized several times over the last few months but he will continue to work on improvements to his properties around the Village. Don takes pride in his “Historic Preservation Projects”.

Don Evans reported that there is a broken tile near his residence at 216 Center Street. Also, the street sign on the corner of Maiden Lane and Center Street was never replaced after the pole was bent. President Lewis hopes to get the sign put back up in the near future.

Don Evans announced that the Bismarck Community Fire Protection District is celebrating 60 years of service next month. Due to an increase in call volume, the department has decided to hire seven paramedics to work full time during the day and continue to provide volunteer emergency services throughout the night. This change of procedure will not cause an increase to taxpayers and will be recouped through billing for services provided.

Dan Wright also praised the Bismarck Community Fire Protection District for their success. He thanked the Village Board for the opportunity to act as Village maintenance personnel. As the owner of 103 W. South Street, Dan stated the he is always pumping out water from the basement and tries to alternate where he pumps the excess water to.

Dan Wright announced that the house located at 12 S. Chicago Avenue is vacant.

Trustee Jane Cress read a letter from resident Mike Pundt in response to the letter he received from the Village regarding a Nuisance Ordinance violation due to abandoned, inoperable and unlicensed vehicles on his property. Mr. Pundt has been preoccupied with an ill family member who recently passed away but is actively trying to sell the vehicles and has requested additional time to comply.

Trustee Karel Volpert reported that the Bismarck Blessings program is good for school children in our community, supplying backpacks full of food to needy students on the weekends. Bismarck Blessings is looking into additional opportunities to provide personal hygiene products and jeans. The program anticipates coordination of a Christmas event that will send Santa Clause around the Village on a fire truck.

**5. President's Comments – None**

**6. Approval of minutes for August 21, 2018** – On a motion by Karel Volpert and a second by Jane Cress, the minutes were approved.

**7. Treasurer's Report** – On a motion by Jane Cress and a second by Mary Potter, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Jane Cress – Yes

Terry Light – Yes

Jack Luttrell – Absent

Mary Potter – Yes

Dave Switzer – Yes

Karel Volpert – Yes

**8. Reports of Committees and Assignments –**

**a. Public Works –**

- i. Village Clean Up Day scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. behind the “Coffee Shop” on Bowman Avenue. Notification to Village residents will be posted via Facebook, the Village website, posted on the Village door and inside the Post Office. Cost is \$10.00 per load. Other local recycling options will be posted as well.
- ii. The trees in the ditch along Crystal Lane appear to require the use of heavy equipment for removal. Ditches belong to the Village and are the Village's responsibility to clean up. It was suggested that the Village obtain a free bid for removal. In the meantime, maintenance personnel, Dan Wright, can cut trees over the winter.
- iii. President Lewis spoke with Attorney Steve Miller with regard to the Zaborsky lien. It appears that the title to the property is held

in the name of a trust out of Pana, Illinois. Attorney Miller will continue to research the ownership. President Lewis will also speak with Attorney Miller about prosecution of a lien through Night Court offered by the City of Danville.

- iv. President Lewis reported that new maintenance personnel, Dan Wright, is doing a good job.
- v. Street signs need replaced at the intersections of Center Street and Maiden Lane as well as Maiden Lane and Myers Street. President Lewis reported that he will look into purchasing new taller poles for signage.

**b. Budget and Finance** – No update from Ed Ryan on year end State and TIF reports.

**c. Health and Safety** –

- i. Trustee Mary Potter reported that grass and weeds are over 8” at the old lumber yard owned by Jim Barlet. The property is dilapidated and has a bad roof. A Nuisance Ordinance Violation letter will be sent.
- ii. A whole new electrical system has been installed at Stewart Grain.
- iii. Trustee Mary Potter has furnished the Village with two cases of water for the maintenance building and shelves to get supplies off of the restroom floor.
- iv. Trustee Mary Potter has cleaned up overgrown brush and weeds at the intersections of Center Street and Maiden Lane and Holloway Avenue and Illinois Street.

**d. Keep Bismarck Beautiful (KBB)** – Trustee Karel Volpert planted mums in the flower beds. The Bismarck Women’s Club is saving plastic caps to recycle into a park bench.

**e. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – None**

**f. Municipal Projects (Roads, Drainage, other improvements) –**

- i. The Utility Agreement between the Village and the Bismarck Water Company has been approved by both parties' attorneys and will be ready to present to the Board for approval at the next regular meeting.
- ii. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has denied our application for funding through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program for the storm sewer improvement project due to the potential of causing negative environmental impacts downstream as well as concern for the septic systems that are cross connected to existing drainage tiles within the Village.

Sam Cole of C2 Engineers, LLP has been looking into other funding options through banking institutions who are familiar with municipal infrastructure and provided the Board with examples of financing scenarios and terms to review.

It is pertinent that the Village of Bismarck start generating revenue as soon as possible to build reserves for the drainage project.

Sam discussed South Street drainage problems and possible solutions; replacing 3 culverts and adding a new culvert, deepening up the ditch on the north side of South Street by about 1' lower than the existing ditch at 103 W. South Street and replacing the culvert across Center Street in order to drain successfully. A cost estimate for that area alone is about \$28,000. We need to look into possible advertising and obtain bids for the work to be done.

- iii. President Lewis reported Illinois State Representative Tom Bennett indicated that there is potential funding that may be

available to the Village in the future. More information to come at a later date.

- iv. The Illinois Safe Routes to School Program funding cycle for 2019 is currently open. The grant may be used for infrastructure projects which encourage and enable students to safely walk and bike to school within 2 miles of the school. The grant could provide 100% reimbursable funding if accepted. Sam Cole explained the upfront expenses involved and it was determined that this option was not feasible for our Village. Sidewalk building and repair expenses can be paid through MFT funding. The main area of concern is the intersection of Holloway and Chicago Avenue south one block where the ground has overgrown the sidewalk or the sidewalk has been damaged and removed.

**g. Permits – None**

**9. Old Business** – Attorney Steve Miller is working on a Resolution to make the Clerk an appointed position on the Board rather than elected.

**10. New Business** –

- a. The Bismarck-Henning Rossville Alvin Cooperative High School Homecoming parade is Friday, October 5, 2018 at 5:00. Trustee Mary Potter is interested in driving a golf cart in the parade and distributing candy to the crowd to represent the Village of Bismarck.
- b. The Rossville Church of Christ is looking for volunteers to assist with their foodbank on Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30. Volunteers need to be at the church by 8:15 a.m. The food mobile is a mobile food pantry, in which free food and grocery products are distributed to low-income individuals, families and seniors living in Vermilion County.
- c. Implementation of a Facebook page for the Village of Bismarck has been allowed for the purpose to act as a type of newsletter to inform Village residents of upcoming events and other miscellaneous matters throughout the community.

**11. Executive Session/Closed Session – None**

**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting** – The next regular meeting of the Bismarck Village Board will be held at the Village Office in Bismarck, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on October 16, 2018.

**13. Adjournment** – With no further business to come before the Board at this time, on a motion by Terry Light and a second by Jane Cress, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valerie Moss, Clerk