

**VILLAGE OF WOODHULL**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 12, 2025**  
**Committees**

**President – D. Holmes**

Building – M. Bethell, J. McCready, & D. Holmes

Finance/Insur. /Audit – H. Garrett & D. Holmes

Personnel – D. Holmes, C. Brinson, & S. Francis

Public Works – J. McCready & S. Francis

**Pro-Tem Pres – J. McCready**

Economic Development – S. Francis & D. Holmes

Parks & Recreation – C. Brinson & H. Garrett

Police/Civ. Def./Zon. – M. Bethell & D. Holmes

Mayor Dave Holmes called the meeting to order on May 12, 2025 @ 7:24 pm.

Followed by roll call: Mark Bethell, Conner Brinson, Scott Francis, Hannah Garrett, and Jeff McCready were present.

Also present at the meeting: Dave Holmes – Mayor, Kelli Hand –Village Clerk, Garrett Adamson – Village Treasurer, Alex Wagner – Police Sergeant, and Dusty McKeag- Public Works Director

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor Holmes welcomed the newly elected Trustee Conner Brinson to the Board followed by announcing new committee assignments. They are as follows:

Pro-Tem Mayor: Trustee Jeff McCready

Buildings- Trustee Mark Bethell, Trustee Jeff McCready, and Mayor Holmes

Economic Development: Trustee Scott Francis and Mayor Holmes

Finance/Insurance/and Audit: Trustee Hannah Garrett and Mayor Holmes

Parks and Recreations: Trustee Conner Brinson and Trustee Hannah Garrett

Personnel: Mayor Holmes, Trustee Conner Brinson, and Trustee Scott Francis

Police/ Civil Defense/ Permits: Trustee Mark Bethell and Mayor Holmes

Public Works: Trustee Jeff McCready and Trustee Scott Francis

**TREASURER’S REPORT April 2025:**

General Fund	\$ 663,450.44
General Fund Payroll	\$ 10,942.82
Video Gaming FSB Savings	\$ 234,829.04
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$ 1,422.02
Drug Enforcement Fund	\$ 3,460.47
Playground Fund	\$ 1,011.31
WINN Checking FSB	\$ 1,136.14
Operation & Maintenance	\$ 5,157.33
Deprec Checking	\$ 6,432.17
Debt Service #2033	\$ 61,400.89
Debt Service Savings	\$ 8,898.10
<u>MFT Fund</u>	<u>\$ 87,078.68</u>

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

General Fund April accounts payable were presented as follows:

Ameren \$ 2,134.56

May 12, 2025

Anji Gas	\$	54.36
ASSA	\$	1,492.50
Bethell's Wildlife Control	\$	70.00
Bolduc & Sons, INC	\$	247.12
Eagle Enterprises Recycling	\$	1,312.30
Ericson's Diesel Service INC	\$	353.59
Galesburg Electric	\$	58.11
Henry County Sheriff's Office	\$	732.83
IFMK law LTD	\$	739.50
Office Machine Consultants, Inc	\$	417.43
Ottosen Dinolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, LTD	\$	184.00
Royal Publishing	\$	95.00
Spencer Brothers Disposal	\$	34.00
V & V Storage, LLC	\$	125.00
Visa #0173	\$	415.40
Visa #0447	\$	60.34
Visa #0454	\$	467.67
Visa # 0470	\$	81.58
Woodhull Telephone Co.	\$	306.12
<b>Total April General Fund A/P</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,381.41</b>

Water Fund April accounts payable were presented as follows:

Ameren Illinois	\$	9,822.33
Anji Gas	\$	156.75
Essence Chemical Co.	\$	1,391.05
Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois	\$	3,175.00
Heritage Tractor	\$	4.82
Pace Analytical Services LLC	\$	359.40
RMR Services LLC	\$	153.01
US Cellular	\$	207.07
V & V Storage, LLC	\$	125.00
Woodhull Telephone Co	\$	123.04
<b>Total April Water Fund A/P</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,517.47</b>

Treasurer Garrett Adamson amended his treasurer's report to include a bill for the Police Department from the Police Law Enforcement Annual Training and Bulletin for \$2,232.55. This would make the amended report's General Fund Payables total \$11,613.96.

Mayor Holmes reported that the Village's National Rural Water Association loan was recently paid off. This loan was from 2015 and was a 10-year loan for \$100,000. The loan was part of the payment for the new ground water storage tank. There was also a loan from Farmers State Bank for \$300,000 for the same project. The Village still owes \$28,565.07 on the Farmers State Bank loan. Mayor Holmes stated having this loan paid off was one of the reasons that the Finance Committee recommends not to raise water rates at this time.

Treasurer Adamson reported that Water Clerk Deb Krueger had not yet split the water and sewer income for April. Once that is completed, she will share the amounts with the Board. This is a new requirement by the USDA.

Treasurer Adamson also reported that there was an MFT deposit made late for the month of April, and it would be listed on the May report for a total of \$2,585.09.

May 12, 2025

Mayor Holmes reported that the Village has three certificates of deposits that are about to expire. The Board discussed that the 12-month rate was the best that Farmer State Bank currently offers and that it would be best to let each of them renew for another 12 months.

Trustee Hannah Garrett asked Mayor Holmes to add auto transfer at the bank to the June Agenda. This topic will need Board approval to allow our new treasurer to transfer funds online.

Trustee Hannah Garrett made a motion to accept the amended treasurer's report to reflect the Police Department payable out of the General Fund in the amount of \$2,232.55 and with the understanding that further amendments would be added to include the water and sewer breakdown for income and the late deposit for the MFT account that was discussed earlier. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Holmes reported that the March video gaming income for the Village was \$5,389.27. The total for the past 11 years is now \$560,701.15. Mayor Holmes reminded the Board that after the money already committed is used there will still be around \$8,000 plus future income to use for other selected projects. Mayor Holmes asked the Board to start thinking about what projects they would like to use gaming funds for next.

Mayor Holmes updated that he is still waiting for the Village's past auditor to complete the Village's 2023 AFR. Once this is completed the Village's new auditor, West Central CPA, will be able to continue their work on the 2024 audit. Mayor Holmes shared that our Village's TIF attorney did send a letter to Mr. Odoni and his firm about the late AFR report and that he hopes the letter will encourage our past auditing firm to complete the AFR before next month's meeting.

Mayor Holmes reported that the Finance Committee recommended some changes to the 2026 Village budget and appropriations. Mayor Holmes shared a few details outlining recommended changes including adding more money to the budget for tree removal and audit costs. Due to the changes that need to be made and more changes that could possibly be needed he asked the Board to table the vote on the 2026 budget and appropriations until the July meeting. The Board agreed this would be best.

Mayor Holmes asked for an update on Sergeant Wagner's credit card account. Sergeant Wagner said he had called Farmers State Bank to speak with Mrs. Tory Garrett, but she was out of the office. He will continue to work out the details with Mrs. Garrett and update the Police and Finance Committee with details.

Mayor Holmes also reported to the Board that Alpha resident Jason Lindstrom called Village Clerk Kelli Hand and stopped by the Village Hall to speak with Mayor Holmes to request using the Village Hall to host weekly martial arts classes. He shared that he currently teaches in Kewanee and feels there is a real need here in the Village for this. He asked the Board to consider lowering the rate for the hall rental and in return he would book one day a week each month. The Board said they would need to check with the Township Board and with insurance before reaching out to Mr. Lindstrom with an answer or more questions.

#### **POLICE/CIVIL DEFENSE/PERMITS:**

Police Sergeant Alex Wagner presented the April Police Report.

In April the Woodhull Police Department responded to 8 calls for service, conducted 3 traffic stops, and issued 3 warnings.

Sergeant Wagner said he had contacted Motorola about the late charge associated with their bill. The Board had asked Sergeant Wagner to investigate the late charge and explain to Motorola that the payment was late due to the bill arriving late and that it was mailed to the wrong address. Sergeant Wagner said their customer service transferred him to speak with someone in the finance department. He was only able to leave a message but will continue to keep the Police and Finance Committees updated on this situation.

Mayor Holmes received the ordinance updates done by Attorney Jordan Newell and asked the Board and Sergeant Wagner to read through the updates and be ready to discuss them at the June meeting. Trustee Mark Bethell reminded Sergeant Wagner that he should continue to be issuing ordinance warnings to residents. Sergeant Wagner said he would continue to do so.

Mayor Holmes asked Sergeant Wagner to submit his February written report to the Board for approval since he was not present at the March meeting. Once the report is received the Board will be able to approve it. Sergeant Wagner apologized and said he would get the report to the Board as soon as possible, as he had forgotten to bring it to the meeting.

Trustee Hannah Garrett made a motion to accept the April Police Report. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag gave the April Public Works Report.

Director McKeag reported April was a very active month, including three water service line breaks. These breaks have all been fixed. Public Works Committee chair Jeff McCready said the break that occurred on Saturday, May 10, 2025, was due to the school's water line issues and that AlWood School will be replacing the water line the first week in June. Trustee McCready had spoken to the school when their first water leak occurred and warned them of the severity of the situation and recommended that the AlWood School takes swift action to prevent another break. Director McKeag said the Public Works Department is prepared to do the Village's portion of the work for the June replacement.

Director McKeag informed the Board he is meeting with USDA Area Specialist Ms. Jessica Ericson from the Rural Development Office in Princeton for a compliance review and security inspection on May 13, 2025. This is a requirement since the Village has loans through the USDA. Trustee Jeff McCready also plans to attend the meeting.

Director McKeag said they have been experiencing power surges at the lagoon, and it is causing the blowers to kick off. This has happened twice in ten days. Director McKeag will continue to monitor the issue and suggested that the Village might need someone to come investigate the reason for the surges if it continues. Trustee Jeff McCready said he would contact a company in Minier, Illinois, who does this type of work. Director McKeag will keep the Public Works Committee posted on the issue.

Public Works Director McKeag and Trustee Jeff McCready will meet with IDOT on Thursday to discuss the project on Highway 17, which will require movement of water lines. Director McKeag will keep the Board updated on this situation.

May 12, 2025

Public Works Director McKeag requested permission to purchase a new lawn mower. He explained that the current lawnmower has 1,700 hours on it and is at least 9 years old. He recommended buying a new mower, which is the same brand as the current mower. He would like to keep the current mower so both him and Public Works Assistant Michael Keener could both mow at the same time. B&B Equipment Sales gave a bid of \$11,999 for the lawnmower which Director McKeag presented to the Board. Trustee Jeff McCready informed the Board he believed they needed to consider purchasing and keeping some equipment more up to date. He referred to the Village of Dwight in Illinois, who recently lost most of their equipment in a fire, and insurance was only able to give them actual cash value for the equipment lost and not replacement value. This was a huge financial burden on the Village since they needed to buy all new equipment at today's prices. Mayor Holmes thanked Trustee McCready for sharing this information and said the Board would need to have a bigger discussion in the future about this. Trustee Scott Francis made a motion to approve the purchase of the new lawnmower as presented by Public Works Director Dusty McKeag from B&B Equipment Sales for \$11,999. Trustee Jeff McCready seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously after a roll call vote of Bethell-Y, Brinson-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, and McCready-Y.

Public Works Director McKeag also reported he believed they would need to trade in the smaller dump truck in the next two years. The truck is a 2015 and stated he knew the Village wanted to keep vehicles on a rotation for replacement.

Trustee Scott Francis asked if it would be possible to purchase a metal sign for the lagoon. The sign should read the rules for the dumping of materials allowed at the lagoon and should also read that only residents of Woodhull are allowed to use the lagoon for dumping. The Board agreed a new sign is needed and Public Works Director McKeag will order one. Director McKeag reported so far this spring there have not been any major issues at that lagoon and the Board thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the lagoon operational and well kept.

Trustee Jeff McCready made a motion to accept the April Public Works report as presented. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **DANGEROUS BUILDING UPDATE:**

None at this time.

#### **ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Mayor Holmes reported that the old Dad's Drive-In Restaurant on East Second Avenue has been purchased and will possibly be made into a business. Trustee Mark Bethell reminded the Board that it was changed from commercial to residential zoning and that they would need to change that. Public Works Director McKeag said there is also no power or gas to the building. Mayor Holmes said he would speak with the new owners and update them.

#### **PARKS/RECREATION/TOURISM:**

Mayor Holmes reported that recently retired trustee Christena Anderson has volunteered to remain as the Village of Woodhull Representative on the Henry County Tourism Committee.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Trustee Scott Francis had no new updates on economic development and reminded the committee that the next meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor Holmes asked if the Board had decided on an answer regarding the April request from Gary and Cathy Maulden regarding the closing times and liquor sale times for their local business on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, New Year's Eve, and Super Bowl Sunday. After a brief discussion Trustee Mark Bethell made a motion to allow all Village establishments with an active Village liquor license to be open for business and allow liquor sales until 2AM on Thanksgiving, 2AM on New Year Day, and midnight on Super Bowl Sunday with the requirement that when these dates fall on a Sunday the business's current liquor license must be for Sunday sales. Trustee Conner Brinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously after a roll call vote of Bethell-Y, Brinson-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, and McCready-Y. Village Clerk Kelli Hand will update Gary and Cathy Maulden and work with Mayor Holmes to send a letter to all Village Businesses this update will affect.

Trustee Scott Francis asked if Mayor Holmes had any updates on Cathy Maulden's request to get more information about using TIF money to update the Village's Division Street business area. Mayor Holmes said at this time the area does not meet requirements to use TIF money. Mayor Holmes said he would contact Cathy Maulden with this update.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Holmes and Village Clerk Kelli Hand presented the Board with a request from Gary and Cathy Maulden to change the Sunday Liquor License Ordinance to allow morning sales. This request comes to the Board because Maulden's Sports Bar would like to start serving breakfast with the option of drinks such as Mimosas. The Board discussed that the current state law allows the Village to allow alcohol sales as early as 6AM. The Village's currently does not allow Sunday sales until noon. The Board agreed they would like to support local businesses and discussed possible changes to the current ordinance. Trustee Jeff McCready made a motion to approve changing the current liquor ordinance to change the time of Sunday sales for dispensing alcoholic liquors for consumption only on the premises for establishments who have an active Class AAA license from the Village to start at 7:00AM starting immediately. Packaged liquor sales will continue to be noon on Sundays. Trustee Hannah Garrett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously after a roll call vote of Bethell-Y, Brinson-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, and McCready-Y. Village Clerk Kelli Hand will update Gary and Cathy Maulden and work with Mayor Holmes to send a letter to all Village Businesses this update will affect.

Trustee Jeff McCready moved to go to Closed Session for two personnel items, a real estate item, and one litigation update at 8:51 PM. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Hand, Village Clerk

## **ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

Trustee Hannah Garrett moved to offer the position of Chief of Police to Jesse Bewley of Aledo at \$68,000 annual salary with no health insurance benefits pending results of his Mental Health Evaluation, and that the Police Committee finalize his start date in accordance with his current employer, and that Mr. Bewley agrees to the Terms of Employment developed by the Village Board in conjunction with Village Attorney Jordan Newell. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote, Hannah Garrett – Yes, Mark Bethell - Yes, Scott Francis – Yes, Jeff McCready – Yes, Conner Brinson – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Hannah Garrett moved to hire Accounting Systems of Galesburg at \$1,000 a month to take over the bookkeeping responsibilities for the Village of Woodhull beginning immediately. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote, Hannah Garrett – Yes, Scott Francis – Yes, Jeff McCready – Yes, Conner Brinson – Yes, Mark Bethell - Yes. Motion carried 5-0. Trustee Jeff McCready moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted, Dave Holmes, Village President

May 12, 2025