

Village of Creston Minutes

Tuesday August 5, 2025

President Byro called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Trustees Elliot, J. Hibshman, M. Hibshman, Hopkins, Kerns, and Ward were present. Attorney Wilt was also present.

President Byro introduced the minutes from July 1, 2025 and asked for additions or corrections. Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. President Byro asked all in favor to vote yea. All present voted yea.

Visitors & Communications – President Byro introduced visitors and communications. President Byro said he had something he would bring up later.

Attorney Wilt stated that he went to court the previous week for the Sanderson property at 209 W Depot St. He said he pulled the tax records, and he believes he has an idea who purchased it. It appears to be a company that buys and sells those things. He said he couldn't say for sure as he was still looking into it. It was due to be in court next month sometime so that the Village can get service on the new purchaser. He said that in the meantime, if it is who he thinks it is, he will reach out to them and talk to them and see what they are trying to do with the property. He thinks that once they see the property, they may want to undo the sale. Attorney Wilt reiterated that most of these companies buy the properties sight unseen and once they look at the property, they realize there is no value and little to no chance of having the owners pay the back taxes plus the percentage, they will undo the sale.

Clerk Payton said that she tried to find the address of the lot next to the Nuyen's house, and Google Earth was giving false addresses. Without knowing exactly where to start, she wasn't sure what else to do. She said that Nuyen's address is 6209 and the Grabers' old house is 6367, so it has to be somewhere between those 2 addresses. Attorney Wilt said he might just drive out there and have someone point him in the direction, and then he may be able to pull out a plat map and figure it out. Trustee Ward suggested contacting Chris at Ogle County GIS. She does a lot of the 911 addressing. Clerk Payton said that she thought FS used to own that property. Trustee Ward said that lot is annexed in the Village so it should have a Village address.

Aaron Moore had 2 new permits for fences and a permit for a roof this past month. Tim Hayden is wrapping up all the houses they started last year on Regulators. Matt was on vacation so when he gets back, they are going to go through the punch lists for the homes with temporary occupancy and get those final inspections done. He said they were looking at things like self-closing doors and grout and caulk and those kinds of things. Mr. Hayden is planning to start 6 more houses so that he can have them at least framed before winter. There are 4 houses total that are in the process of being framed: 2 are private and 2 are for Mr. Hayden. Aaron said that Trustee Kerns was also constructing a new duplex on Prairie St. Aaron told President Byro that the residents behind him do have a permit and the address is 212 Transit St. Aaron said he met with the contractor Tip Top Roofing and they got a little more involved than they had anticipated. Once they stripped it, they had to redo all of the decking. Aaron asked about the home at 224 E Depot St. They were under a contract to have the work finished by 7/31/25 and they put a roof on the house and then kind of disappeared. Aaron said he has not had any contact with them. President Byro asked Attorney Wilt to see if he could get a hold of someone and see what is going on. Attorney Wilt said he would contact the homeowner's attorney and see what he could find out. President Byro said there were more things that needed to be done besides a new roof and the grass is also getting high. Attorney Wilt confirmed that he would take care of it.

Kevin Bunge said he noticed that the water tower was scheduled for later in the agenda so he would address it then. He said that they were working on a package for the sidewalks at Village Hall and South and Grove Streets. He said they were also working on a package for the water main on South St. He said that other than that, he had the Storm Sewer and the Water Tower to discuss.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins said that he had nothing. President Byro said that the Village got a nice check for tipping fees. He said they must be busy out there. The check was for almost \$10,000. Trustee Hopkins said that the tipper is back, and they are bringing semi transfers in. President Byro said that the checks are usually \$5000-\$6000 dollars. Trustee Elliot asked if the checks came monthly or quarterly and President Byro said quarterly.

Streets & Alleys – Trustee Ward said that the County was supposed to do the sealcoating the previous Tuesday, but he got a call from the contractor on Monday that said that there are piles of steel slag on the ground of the company that is supplying it that's been through the screens and is the right gradation, but it had not been through the crusher, so it wasn't IDOT certified. He asked if it was

okay if they used that. Trustee Ward said that the sealcoating cannot be paid for with MFT funds if the materials are not IDOT certified. He said that the parts for the crusher are supposed to be in, and he hoped they would get the crusher running in the next week or so. The contractor said that another township let him use it and Trustee Ward said he couldn't speak for anyone else, but since the Village is paying with MFT funds, we must play by IDOT rules. As soon as the crusher is up and running, they can put the slag through the crusher and then do the sealcoating. President Byro asked him if he had anything else and Trustee Ward said no, that was it.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Kerns said he had nothing. President Byro said there was some other water-related items that would be discussed later in the meeting.

Health & Safety - Trustee M. Hibshman said that a couple of people have brought to his attention that some of the sidewalks in town are in pretty bad shape. Trustee M. Hibshman said that he started looking into it and there are quite a few that are cracked and tripping hazards. He said there is a sidewalk on Depot that is in pretty bad shape, and Curtis Loyd said that there is another one on Prairie and North St that is in pretty bad shape. Trustee Ward said that now is the time to do it because Kevin is putting together a sidewalk bid. Trustee M. Hibshman asked Kevin if he needed addresses and Kevin said yes, addresses would be best. Trustee M. Hibshman said in the next week or two he would provide Kevin with some addresses. Trustee Elliot acknowledged that some of the sidewalks would have to be replaced, but if there is about an inch protruding up, could the resident just plane it off. Kevin said an inch would be difficult, but if it was about a half inch or less it could be. He said if the entire slab is raised, then it will keep rising. Even if you grind it, it will still rise. President Byro said that at one time there was a sidewalk committee and Trustee Ward said that the Village had a telecommunications tax that they collected that was put toward sidewalks. He said that the Village is collecting the tax. He said the problem with the 50/50 is that if any taxpayer money is put into it, prevailing wage has to be paid. That ends up costing the homeowner more money. Trustee Kerns said the problem is that it doesn't get done and Trustee Hopkins added that it doesn't get done to the proper specs. Trustee Elliot asked about mud jacking some of the problem areas. Kevin said in a perfect situation it could work, but quite often it is just cheaper to pull the panel. Trustee Ward added that we are dealing with 50+ year old sidewalks and if someone tried to mud jack it, it would probably just crack all over the place. Trustee M. Hibshman told Kevin he would get him some addresses soon.

Zoning & Planning – President Byro reminded Clerk Payton to remove Steve Katzman's name from the agenda. She said she would do it after the meeting. President Byro said he would like to get Trustee J. Hibshman involved and get Trustee M. Hibshman more involved. He said that he would look at moving a couple of people around. He said that typically people that are on a committee are happy where they are, but we need to get some replacements, and he wanted both J. and M. Hibshman to step up a little bit. He said he would have conversations with both of them to find out where they are interested in helping the Village. Trustee Elliot said he had nothing for Zoning and Planning.

Subdivision - Trustee Elliot said the subdivision looks good. President Byro said that Chuck Martinson has been mowing, and it looks good, and that there are some weed issues that Mr. Martinson will take care of. Mr. Loyd said that Mr. Martinson bought some new weed killer that is working well, and he said he was going to try it out on some of the weeds out by the big pond. Trustee Elliot said that he wasn't sure if the weeds behind the school had been sprayed since Spring, but he thought it looked like it should be sprayed again. President Byro said Mr. Martinson was going to look into it.

New Business – President Byro brought up the FY 26 Appropriations Ordinance that needed to be passed. Mr. Loyd asked President Byro if he wanted to mention the lift station out in the subdivision. President Byro said that there is a sewer lift station out there and at this time it is not connected to Rochelle. There is a problem with the data system. President Byro said that the Village is going to look into how much it will cost to get it hooked up as Rochelle monitors the big lift station. There was a problem out there a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Loyd just happened to be out there, and someone said something to him. There was a high-level alarm going off. Trustee Ward asked if Rochelle does minor maintenance on the big lift station. President Byro said that they do. President Byro said he doesn't have any numbers yet, but he will pass the information along when he gets it. Trustee Elliot asked what needed to be fixed. President Byro said that there is nothing that is broken. It just needs to be connected to Rochelle so that if there is a problem they can monitor it. President Byro returned to the FY 26 Appropriations Ordinance. He asked if anyone had any issues or problems. He stated that the ordinance needed to be passed, and he felt that the Village as in pretty good shape. He asked if anyone had any discussion. There was none. President Byro asked for a motion. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to approve the FY 26 Appropriations Ordinance. Trustee M. Hibshman seconded it. President Byro asked if there were any questions. There were none. Trustees J. Hibshman, Ward, Elliot, M. Hibshman, Kerns and Hopkins all voted yea. FY 26 Appropriations Ordinance was approved.

President Byro transitioned to the water tower. He said he wanted to talk about the report that the Village received from the people who cleaned the water tower. There are a number of things that have issues, but nothing drastic. He said he didn't think there was anything he was overly concerned about. Kevin said he thought he specifically said there isn't anything to be really concerned about. President Byro said that he also mentioned that they have a piece of equipment called a mixer that goes into the top of the tower and it stirs the water, so it isn't stagnant. It isn't a cheap piece of equipment. He said there are 1500 of them around the nation and the company is

worldwide. This piece of equipment is \$22,000 and that doesn't include the installation, and an electrician has to wire it. The tower also has to be drained and cleaned before the mixer is installed, which is another expense. Kevin said it was kind of 2 separate things, but he was recommending that the tower be drained and cleaned before putting the mixer in. Kevin said they also had a proposal for the cleaning part that was only \$5000. The Village will drain the tower and then the company will clean all the sediment out of the tank and re-chlorinate the tank and then the Village will re-fill the tank. Kevin said to him that was a very reasonable price. President Byro said he didn't see that and he asked if it was on the bid. Kevin said they had to re-do the bid due to some errors and the corrected bid was received the previous day. President Byro said he would like a copy of that bid. Trustee Kerns asked if it would cost about \$30,000 to do everything. President Byro said that was about right. Trustee Kerns said it sounds like it's needed. President Byro said that the gentleman that made the report was pretty positive about needing those things. Trustee Kerns referenced Mr. Loyd's report about how the company attempted to remove the buildup with their robot and were not able to do so, and Trustee Hopkins said they kept pushing into it and making no headway. President Byro asked about the timelines. Kevin said summer or fall would be best. Kevin said that the company won't haul away the material. They remove the material from the tank and leave it there. They are not there with an excavator. Trustee Ward asked if the Village provided a dumpster or a dump truck, would they put the material in the dumpster/dump truck. Kevin said they would. Trustee Elliot asked how much and if a special container would be needed to haul it away. Kevin said he thought about 8-10 yards and that no special waste container would be needed as it is the same material that comes out of the water pipes. Kevin said that the mixer is \$22,500 and getting the sediment out of the tank is another \$500, and the Village will need to hire someone to install the control box. Kevin said that they could recommend someone or if the Village had someone they would like to use, that is fine, too. Kevin said that Illinois Rural Water will coordinate with the Village in terms of the valves they are recommending to operate without the tower. He said there are two valves that can be put on the system that will mimic what the tower does so that the Village can still use the system as it will take at least 2 days to get the sediment out of the tank. He said that Illinois Rural Water will do this free of charge and will loan the Village the two valves and work with us on where to put them. He said they are suggesting one at the tower and one at the low end of the system. Trustee Ward asked if they were pop-out valves. Kevin said basically. He said that they like to set them just below the system pressure so that they aren't running all the time. He said the well will be on and off a lot, so it is a good thing that the well was taken care of a while back. Kevin said that getting the mixer installed, getting the sediment out of the tower and having the control box installed for less than \$30,000 is a good deal. Trustee Elliot said that if it was only \$30,000 or so, the Village should do it. Trustee Kerns said even if it's \$35,000 by the time you get the dumpster and haul the sediment away and pay for the electrician, it is worth it. Trustee Ward said that it's a 120 V pump. He asked if there was electricity at the tower. President Byro said there is. Trustee Ward asked if the service that is there will support the additional load. President Byro said a better question is who was going to climb all the way up the tower to hook that thing up. Kevin said that he didn't ask them where they needed the service. He said that he knew there was a control box, which they provide, but an electrician must install it. He didn't think to ask where it would be installed. Trustee Ward said he thought it would most likely be installed at the base of the tower and he asked if they were going to run from the box up or would the electrician have to climb up to install it. Kevin said he would get clarification, but he thought everything on the plus side of the box was theirs to do. He said he would verify that. Mr. Loyd said that there is a box with two 20-amp breakers and all that is used are 3 light bulbs that light the ladder. Trustee Elliot asked what the box was rated, and Mr. Loyd said he wasn't sure. Kevin said that he knew the one they were going to supply is a 120V. Trustee Ward said that we need to find out what amp they need.

President Byro asked the Board how they felt about the project and should it move forward. Trustee M. Hibshman said that he thought so, even if it runs \$40,000. Trustee Ward asked if the company that submitted the bid is the only company that does it. Kevin said that they are the only ones in the area that would even talk to us. Trustee Ward suggested making a motion to waive competitive bidding because it is a specialty item. Kevin asked what the limit was. Trustee Ward said it was about \$27,000 and Trustee Elliot said he thought he saw that they had raised it to \$30,000. Kevin asked if the Village was tied to the state number or if they passed their own. Trustee Ward said it was the state statute, but you can waive competitive bidding based on specialty projects or limited vendors. Kevin said that they were giving the Village a break on the sediment removal because the Village is a repeat customer and there is more than one project involved. President Byro said that they talked to the gentleman from the company for more than an hour and he went through each photo and explained what needed to be done and when. Trustee Elliot asked if the gentleman that he and President Byro talked to a couple of weeks prior said there was some grant money available for that. President Byro clarified if he was talking about the State economic guy and he said there could be. President Byro asked for a motion. Trustee J. Hibshman said he would make the motion. President Byro suggested setting the price at \$35,000. Trustee Kerns asked if the Village was hiring the electrician and President Byro said yes. Trustee Hopkins said there is a big difference if they run it all the way to the top and the Village just has to hook it up. Kevin asked if the Village had an electrician that does work for the Village. President Byro said not really. Kevin said that they know people and they can get some prices. Trustee Elliot suggested that Kevin put the whole package together. Kevin said that first thing he would do is find out where the box would be positioned and who is going to run the piece in the middle.

Trustee Ward asked if they gave Kevin a price on fixing the rust issues. Kevin said no, they just pointed all of it out and they put together a package that includes everything on that list. Trustee Ward said if the issues were minor now, he would rather deal with them now than later. Kevin agreed but said he would like to keep that separate from these two equipment pieces. Trustee Ward asked if Trustee J. Hibshman's motion should be to tell Kevin to proceed and come back to the next meeting with a firm quote. Trustee Elliot seconded the motion. President Byro asked if they should put a money amount on it. Trustee Hopkins said no, as he would be coming

back with a price next month and a dollar amount can be attached at that time. Trustee M. Hibshman suggested making a motion for Kevin to get a bid before the next meeting. Trustee Hopkins added that it is just to proceed and move along with the process. Trustee Kerns said Kevin already has a bid. Trustee Hopkins said that doesn't include the electrical component. President Byro didn't think that would be more than a couple of thousand dollars. Trustee M. Hibshman then suggested approving it for up to \$35,000 and calling it a day. Trustee Kerns said bids only last 30 days. Kevin said that would at least get the KLM pieces going now. Trustee Kerns agreed so that the Village doesn't lose 35 to 45 days. Kevin said that he could bring electrician figures back to the next meeting as KLM will not be in and out within 2-4 weeks. Trustee Elliot went over the numbers and Kevin confirmed that the mixer is \$22,500 and the cleanup inside the tank will cost \$5000. Trustee Elliot said that would leave another \$7500 and he asked if that would be enough. Kevin said he thought that would be enough. Trustee M. Hibshman said if there is any concern about it, bump the limit up to \$40,000 and only spend what is needed to complete the project. Trustee Ward said that the Village could use their dump truck to haul the sediment material to the landfill. He said there might be a couple of loads. President Byro said he couldn't believe there would be that much in there. Mr. Loyd said that Anderson Plumbing did the electrical work for the mud valve at the tower. Kevin asked if the Village was happy with what they did. Mr. Loyd said they did a nice job, and he has had no issues with it. Kevin said he would contact them. He said he would want to get at least 2 if not firm at least ballpark bids to make sure they don't have someone real high or low. President Byro asked if a motion was needed. Kevin said maybe a motion to tell him to tell KLM to get started. Trustee J Hibshman made a motion to look into the submersible mixer up to \$40,000. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees M. Hibshman, Elliot, Kerns, Hopkins, Ward, and J. Hibshman voted yes. Motion passed.

Kevin asked if there was a motion to waive competitive bidding. Attorney Wilt said he thought there needed to be a finding that this project is a specialty item or that it can only be procured through this one manufacturer. Kevin said it was very much a specialty item. Attorney Wilt said that from what Kevin had said so far, it was a specialty item, and he had also reached out to other companies with similar items and they have not gotten back him, showing a good faith effort to receive competitive bids on the project. Attorney Wilt said that a motion was needed to make that finding to waive competitive bidding. Trustee Elliot made a motion to waive competitive bidding process for this project as KLM has been recommended as the leader and one of the few that is into this business. Trustee M. Hibshman seconded the motion. Trustees Elliot, M. Hibshman, Kerns, Hopkins, J. Hibshman, and Ward voted yes. Motion passed.

President Byro moved on to the roof repairs for the maintenance building. He said that Trustee Kerns had worked on this roof before and he asked him to take a look at it. President Byro said he didn't want to spend a lot of money on it, but a good roof is needed on that building. Trustee Kerns said that he did get up there and take a look at it. He said there are a few spots up there that are not perfect, but he thinks it can be sealed, and he estimated the cost to be about \$4000. President Byro asked if Trustee Kerns did it the last time and he said that he did and it was 20 years ago, so it has lasted that long. Trustee Kerns said that if the Village did the EPDM roofing, the cost would be between \$15000 and \$18000. Trustee Kerns said the EPDM roofing would last longer but the question becomes do you want to spend \$15000-\$18000 and how much longer will the Village have the building. President Byro asked if Kerns Construction could do that job. Trustee Kerns said they could. President Byro said he thought it was a good idea and asked how the Board felt about it. Trustee Kerns said they have the rubber coating that you roll on and it had to be 20 years ago that he repaired it the last time. President Byro asked if it was a flat roof and Trustee Kerns said it has a slight pitch to the back. Trustee Ward asked if that was in the very back corner and Trustee Kerns said it was also in the east corner. He said there are 1800 square feet of flat. Trustee Elliot asked if the structure was good. Trustee Kerns said he believes it is. Mr. Loyd said there is some plywood he can see from underneath, but Trustee Kerns said that for now they can just block it up. Trustee Kerns said there is a downspout there and it is run the right way as it goes out past the building, but he doesn't know if it freezes up or what. He said the only spot that is a little soft is by the downspout. President Byro said that it needs to be repaired. Trustee Kerns suggested cleaning it up well and sealing it. President Byro asked for a motion to repair the roof on the maintenance building. Trustee M. Hibshman made a motion to repair the roof on the maintenance building. Trustee Elliot seconded the motion. President Byro asked if anyone had any questions or comments. There were none. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Kerns voted present. Trustees J. Hibshman, Hopkins, Ward, M. Hibshman and Elliot all voted yes. Motion passed.

President Byro moved on to the Village Hall sign. He said he spoke to the library, and they are interested in possibly being involved in that project. He said he had another company coming in the following day. They are from Sandwich, and they have done a lot of signs in the area. He said he would talk to them and find out what they offer and take him down the spot to show them what we need. That project is still ongoing. Trustee Hibshman asked if President Byro got an estimate from the other company. President Byro said that the gentleman had estimated between \$25,000 and \$30,000. President Byro said he would think this company's estimate would be in that ballpark.

Old Business – President Byro moved on to the Storm Sewer Project. Kevin said that they should start digging on Friday, August 8. He said that had been doing potholing to look for water and gas mains the last couple of weeks and that is wrapping up. Kevin said the project should move along quickly, but he remembered from the sanitary system project, every lot they passed they hit 2 or 3 tiles. He said they located what they could in the stretch, but he knows there will be some unknowns and they will deal with them as they find them. Mr. Loyd told Trustee Kerns that when they had patched that a couple of times, they were lucky they didn't hit a water service as

it ran right through where they were digging. Trustee Kerns said there are many, many field tiles through there. Kevin said that for every lot they crossed with the sewer system, they averaged 2-1/2 tiles. Trustee Kerns said that was probably the worst part of town. He also said that he remembered that there used to be a creek near where Butch Lambkin's hardware store used to be. People would water their horses in the creek and then go downtown to shop. All that water from that subdivision to the hardware store used to be a creek.

President Byro said he got a phone call the other morning from Denise Stanbery's sister and she was really upset that the Village wasn't going to buy that lot from them. She wanted to know what they were supposed to do with it as they can't build on it. President Byro told her they can do whatever they want with it but the Village wasn't interested in buying it. Trustee Ward said that Village gave them the variance that they requested for that lot. President Byro said he didn't know if the Village would hear anything more from her or not, but she was really upset with the Village for not buying the lot.

President Byro said that property condemnation had already been discussed.

President Byro moved on to the grocery tax. He had Treasurer Payton look up the taxes that the Village brought in in July. He said that Sales Tax is the figure he wanted the Board to look at. Grocery tax is not separated out. The total that was brought in in July was a sizable amount of money. Trustee Kerns asked if the 1% was included. Trustee Hopkins said it was under the Sales Tax. Treasurer Payton said it is figured in with the Sales Tax and is not separated out. Trustee Kerns said he thought that the Village needed to add the 1%. Trustee Ward said that the state is currently charging the 1% and in a political move, in Trustee Ward's opinion, the Governor can say he is reducing taxes by eliminating the grocery tax and it is up to individual municipalities to decide if they want to maintain that 1% or eliminate it. So, if a Village assesses the 1% tax, it does not increase what people are already paying. It just maintains the current tax the state is already assessing. Trustee M. Hibshman said that within that Sales Tax number are also alcohol taxes and cigarette taxes. Trustee Ward said that the 1% sales tax does not include alcohol tax or cigarette tax. Treasurer Payton said she didn't believe cigarette taxes were included in the Sales Tax total. Trustee M. Hibshman asked if it was not included in the Sales Tax number and Treasurer Payton said she didn't believe so as she did not see it listed, but she said she could look again. Trustee Elliot said if the Sales Tax is almost \$20,000, 1% is about \$200. Trustee Kerns stated that it is 1% of the grocery tax, not the total Sales Tax. Trustee Ward said that the 1% grocery tax does not include alcohol, candy, soda, or pre-made sandwiches as they are taxed at a higher rate. Trustee Elliot said that things that are sold at Casey's are considered a convenience whereas things that are sold at Headon's are considered groceries and are taxed at a lower rate. Trustee Ward said it is food that is purchased to be taken off site and consumed, so if you buy a sandwich or a pizza at Casey's, you are taking that somewhere else to eat as Casey's is not a restaurant, so that would be taxed at the lower amount. That said, all the candy and soda are already taxed at a higher rate and are not included in the grocery tax. Trustee M. Hibshman asked where the alcohol and cigarette tax are. He asked if it was in that overall Sales Tax number. President Byro said yes, it is in the \$6700 number. Trustee M. Hibshman said that he was looking at the sales tax report they filed for Headon's for July, and it had itemized alcohol tax, food tax, grocery tax, sandwich tax, etc. Trustee Elliot asked if his average monthly was about \$3000 and Trustee M. Hibshman said that for July it was about \$2700. Trustee Ward asked if that was for food and Trustee M. Hibshman said it was for everything. Trustee Ward asked how much of that was food and Trustee M. Hibshman said about half of that. Trustee Ward estimated about \$1300-\$1400 per month would be food. Trustee M. Hibshman said that they have talked long and hard about it and it only affects Casey's and Headon's. Trustee M. Hibshman said he agreed with what Trustee Kerns said at the last meeting that he thinks it's horrible that we even tax food. He said that from a moral standpoint, he thinks the tax should be dropped. He then spoke as a business owner and said that on the other side, about 95% to 98% of their customers are not Creston residents. He said that they come from all over and while he doesn't want to penalize Creston residents with the 1% tax, it is also money coming in from other areas. That said, he doesn't care where the money is coming from, he doesn't think it is morally right to tax food. Trustee Ward said he was going back and forth on it as well because it seems like every other municipality in the area is charging the 1%. He said he feels like he is getting penalized to shop in other communities if our village doesn't charge the tax. Trustee Hibshman said that from Trustee J. Hibshman's and his perspectives with Headon's, they would have to explain why Pritzker dropped the 1% tax and the Village was still charging it because they wanted to keep the money. Trustee Ward said it is 1 cent per every dollar and Trustee Hibshman said yes, but he would be surprised how people are about things like that. Trustee Ward said that the Village received \$6700 and he asked how much of that Trustee Hibshman would be paying for Headon's. Trustee M. Hibshman estimated about \$1200-\$1500. Trustee Ward asked if he was at about 20% of what Casey's would be paying. Trustee M. Hibshman said he didn't know as Casey's would probably be paying a lot more because they have a lot of other products like chips and such and that tax will still be there. He said he didn't know how much Casey's carries that would be taxed at 1%. Trustee Kerns said they have slices of pizza, and Trustee Hopkins said sandwiches. Clerk Payton said they also sell flour and sugar and other staples like cereal and milk, but they also sell beer and soda. Trustee Elliot wondered about the sandwiches, because if he were to go through Wendy's and buy a burger, that is taxed at a higher rate than 1%. Trustee M. Hibshman said that prepared sandwiches are taxed at a higher rate than groceries. Trustee Elliot said that a pizza would be taxed at a higher rate as well. Trustee M. Hibshman said he doubts Casey's has that much at 1%. The 1% would be charged for flour, cans of soup and other staples like that. Trustee Ward said he was trying to get a grasp on how much revenue the Village would be losing if the tax goes away. Trustee Ward said \$100 a month is way different than \$3000 a month. Trustee M. Hibshman said he would estimate about \$15000 per year, give or take, not knowing what Casey's is doing. President Byro

asked if the Board owes it to the people in town to do the best we can for them. Trustee Kerns said they keep the 1% or we keep the 1% and he knows what side he is on. Trustee M. Hibshman said he personally feels that a grocery tax is not a make or break. President Byro asked the Board what they wanted to do. Trustee Ward wanted to confirm that what the Village does now does not lock us in forever. He said that we could either add it or take it away sometime down the line. Trustee Elliot made a motion that the Village will not adopt a 1% grocery tax to replace the 1% tax that is being repealed by the Governor. Trustee Kerns seconded it. President Byro asked if there was any further discussion. Trustee Ward said he is fine with not establishing it, but we need to keep an eye on it and make sure the Village is not losing too much tax revenue. Trustee M. Hibshman said that once you stop it, it is hard to add it back in unless the state does. President Byro called for a vote. Roll call vote taken. Trustees J. Hibshman and M. Hibshman abstained. Trustees Kerns, Hopkins, Ward and Elliot all voted yes. Motion passed. Trustee M. Hibshman asked if that would take effect September 1st. President Byro said it needed to be passed by October 1. Trustee Ward said he thought it would take effect the first of next year.

President Byro said that was all he had on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report – President Byro introduced the bills. Treasurer Payton said she had a bill to add. She needed to add a bill for the Ogle County Highway Department for road work done. The labor expense is \$11699.48 and equipment rental is \$9230.33 for a total of \$20,929.81 out of Motor Fuel Tax. That needs to be added to and approved with the monthly bills. Trustee Hopkins had a question: he wanted to know if Comcast Cable is really \$400 per month. Treasurer Payton said that is internet, telephone and security. It is a whole package, and it is always there. She said she didn't know if he could find someone that is cheaper and as reliable and Trustee Hopkins said no. She said it is the entire package, including the fax, the telephone, the internet and security. She also said that the price would increase again soon. Trustee Elliot made a motion to approve the bills with the amendment of the \$20,929.81 for the Ogle County Highway Department. Trustee M. Hibshman seconded the motion. President Byro asked if there was any discussion. He said he assumed the mosquito guy was on there, and that he had been doing a great job. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Kerns, Hopkins, Ward, M. Hibshman, Elliott, and J. Hibshman all voted yes. Bills were approved.

President Byro said he had nothing else. He asked if anyone else had anything they would like to bring up. Trustee Elliot said that Resource Bank had a seminar for small towns in Dekalb a couple of weeks ago. He said it was a very good presentation, and he said it presented stories of towns that needed some revitalization and how they went about doing some of it. Each town is different, and one town in Michigan said their town was so broke they could not make payroll. He went through how they did some creative financing, including selling off some property and then buying it back later when they were more financially stable. Other towns had festivals or weekly concerts in the park. He said it was a very good program and there was a lot of inspiration that came from what these communities did to raise the bar and pull together and work as a team. He said he would try to get the website information, and he said that as businessmen in town as well as Board members, he thought it would be a good thing for everyone to look at. He said that we move through day by day and maybe we need to look at where we want to be in 20 years. He thought it might be helpful in facilitating a vision.

Trustee M. Hibshman brought up Booster Days. He said the Board needs to decide about donating money to the fireworks. The cost increased to \$7000. Trustee Ward asked if that was the total cost and Trustee M. Hibshman said yes. President Byro said to put it in on the agenda for the following month. Trustee Hopkins said he talked to Steve Katzman earlier in the day and he asked if it was on the agenda and Trustee Hopkins said he didn't think it was. Trustee Hibshman said that everything is all set, but the cost increased. He said that the show would be as long if not longer than last year's, but they will use smaller shells because of the houses in the area. President Byro said that the school is looking great. Both President Byro and Trustee Kerns said that Doug is doing a great job. Trustee Kerns said that he had put some drop ceiling in the gymnasium stage, and he has never seen the gym look that great. President Byro said he is doing a great job. He is going to take over the mowing and he is also going to bring his own truck and do the snowplowing. President Byro said he is so impressed with Doug, and he even told him that. Trustee M. Hibshman asked Trustee Kerns was they did on the inside. Trustee Kerns said that the walls are painted, and everything is touched up and it looks very presentable. He said you can see yourself in the floors. President Byro said that Doug's son helps him out as well. President Byro said he hopes the kids value the playground as it's going to be nice.

Trustee M. Hibshman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:01:54 pm.