

VILLAGE OF KINCAID
115 CENTRAL AVE. KINCAID, IL. 62540
TIME- 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Robert Morris.

Roll call was taken by the Village Clerk- Stephanie Brown,
Gibson- here, Paso- here, Lawrence- here, Warren- here, Dees- here, Nelson- here

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all who attended the meeting.

A motion was made for the approval of minutes from June's meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Gibson, a second motion was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Toni Cleeton to speak in regards to her Ordinance Citation- Toni did not show up at the beginning of the meeting, but she did show up about 10 minutes into the meeting. Trustee Lawrence spoke up and stated that we issue ordinances for a reason and asked Officer Hubbs if we had found out anything in regards to a warning for her. Toni's ordinance was for tall grass and weeds. The Ordinance was given in April and here we are in July already. Trustee Nelson spoke up and stated that, Toni's failure to be here for the meeting, means she is still at fault. When Toni came in to speak, she apologized for running late, since she had been caught in traffic. Toni spoke about the citation that she had received for high grass and weeds. She stated that she never received a warning for it. Mayor Robert Morris spoke up and stated that we do not have to give out warnings. Toni wanted to let the board know that the reason she was having issues with the grass and weeds being so tall, was that her dad had been doing the mowing for her, but when he got colon cancer and passed away, then it was left up to Toni to cut her own grass. Toni stated that she is not able to cut her grass, due to having allergies and breathing issues. She had investigated having a company come and cut the grass for her, but they wanted to charge her an arm and leg for it and she just cannot afford that high cost right now. She stated that her son had a lawn mower, which belonged to her dad after he had passed, but that her son was afraid to ride the mower across town, since there had been something posted on line as to a possible fine for riding them in town. Mayor Robert Morris spoke up and stated that it was only if someone did not have license and was driving them in town.

Since after receiving the citation, she has had the grass taken care of and her son has been coming out and cutting it for her. Trustee Gibson asked her if she is now keeping up with cutting the grass and Toni stated, that it is being taken care on a weekly basis. Trustee Nelson spoke up and stated that we have ordinances in place for a reason, but that he wanted her to understand that we are just trying to take care of the community and just making sure that this is not going to be a problem in the future. The citation that she received for tall grass and weeds, is a fine of \$250.00. Toni stated that she is not able to afford this because she is still trying to pay on a high-water bill now. Trustee Nelson asked Toni, what she could afford right now on this fine and

what she wanted the board to do about it. Toni stated that she could pay \$25/month for now. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson to allow her to pay \$25/month for 10 months, or until she could have it paid off. A second motion was made by Trustee Lawrence. All Ayes.

- John Heikes to speak in regards to his Ordinance Citation- John spoke up about attending the last board meeting and how he had talked about the timeline of the Ordinance that he received a month later, after the ordinance was issued. He spoke about that fact that he did get his four-wheeler fixed. He is not denying the allegations and he stated that he does not want to cause any trouble here in the community. He re-iterated the fact that it does not seem fair that he did not receive his citation till almost of month later. Mayor Robert Morris spoke up and stated that after the footage of the incident was reviewed, it showed that John had cussed Officer Merker out. John stated that, he did in fact, apologize to the Officer and that he told him it would not happen again. The mayor spoke up once again and stated that John's four-wheeler was not street legal, because of not having turn signals, a sticker, or other things for that matter. John stated that he was on his own property at the time and not on the street. John stated that Officer Merker was not going to write him out a citation, since John gave him an apology. John also stated that the mayor had told Officer Merker to give out the citation, since John had been warned several times about riding his four-wheeler in the streets. Officer Hubbs spoke up and stated that, per the body-cam footage, John had admitted that he was in fact riding on the road. John stated that he wanted this resolved today, or he wanted to have a court date to go in front of a judge. Officer Hubbs spoke up and told John that we would have to find out when the next date is for Ordinance Court and we would let him know. Officer Hubbs told John that he would have court fees added on top of his fine, but John stated that he did not want to pay court fees.

- VISITORS:

VISITORS- A PERSON SHALL BE PERMITTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS OFFICIALS UNDER THE RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE VILLAGE (3 MINUTES PER PERSON) 5ILCS 120/2.06g – A citizen of the community spoke up about a few incidents that have happened in his area of town, on Richardson Street. He stated that he left this area some time ago after his wife had passed and has since moved back to the community. He spoke about being a teacher in Chicago and living in Springfield. He stated that a few days ago he had an incident with his neighbor, who does not have his dog on a leash right now. He stated that this dog comes across the street onto his property and on his porch at times. He also spoke of times where the dog goes down the street to a house, that happens to be 2 houses down from his, and that at this house, there are children that play outside quite often. He stated that the dog is a pit bull breed and that one day, the dog came up on his porch. He had told the dog to go home and had also asked the dog's owner to get his dog and put him on a leash. He then proceeded to state that since this dog would not leave his property and that he feared for his safety and the safety of the children playing outside, he decided to club the dog over the head. This citizen is just concerned for the safety of the community and for the children who play outside quite often. He did however state, that when he went over to confront the owner of the dog about keeping him on a leash and keeping him off his property, the owner told him tooff! This citizen just wanted to make the community aware and let the officers know what is going on, so they can take care of the situation. Officer Hubbs spoke up and stated that this is the first he has heard of this but he will

investigate the situation and take care of it. The board of Trustee's let the gentlemen know that, now since they are all aware of what is going on, the officers would do what they need to do, to take care of the situation, so that this does not happen again.

Michael Motley spoke up in regards to the incident that happened out at the lake lots last month. He stated that the board gave him an extension last meeting to get all his things out. He stated that in that time frame, he has since received a citation for tall grass, weeds, and trash. Motley stated that he had just received the citation around a week ago. The citation is for his home where he lives in here in town. He stated that he has taken everything out at the lake lot and has since cleaned everything up. He stated that his home has since been cleaned up and mowed as well. Motley was issued a warning for this same offense back in April. Trustee Nelson reiterated that we have ordinances in place for a reason. Trustee Nelson also stated that we need to be consistent across the board with either giving warnings or giving citations. The clerk found in the ordinance log book, where he was given a warning on April 22nd for tall grass and weeds. Chief Mathon was by phone at the meeting and stated that Motley had been given several warnings last year for the same offense. He received this new citation on July 1st of this year. Motley is supposed to get back his deposits from the three Lake Lots which total \$750. He stated that he would give that money to not only pay on his ordinances, but also pay for Toni Cleeton's citation that she received.

There was another citizen of the community who spoke up in regards to giving warnings and giving citations. He just wanted to know why some people are getting warnings and other people are getting citations. He stated that it just does not seem fair. Mayor Robert Morris agreed to this matter. Trustee Dee's spoke up and stated that he thought that if you give a warning for something, then if it is not fixed after the 14-day period, then they would be issued a citation. Trustee Lawrence also spoke up in regards to the 3-strike rule in regards to these citations. It should be the same across the board. Trustee Warren agreed with Trustee Nelson, that if we are not going to be giving out warnings, then we need to be consistent with it.

- Old Business

- Possible changes to the employee handbook- Trustee Paso stated that she is still looking over some things, so this will be tabled till the next meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson to table this. A second motion was made by Trustee Dees. All Ayes.

- Having April Wolfe represent the Village of Kincaid as Marketing and Media Manager- Trustee Paso spoke up and stated that at the last meeting she was on the phone and she was not able to hear everything that was discussed. She stated that when a person comes in and says "I want to set up a job here at the village and I want you to pay me for it", we violate the right to post the job out there and to give more people the opportunity to apply for it. She stated that the way this was done just was not done the proper way and that it should have been posted, only if there was a need for the position. Mayor Robert Morris stated that he feels that at this time, we do not have the funds to hire someone for this position. April Wolfe spoke up and stated that this position is a service and she is not asking to be an employee of the village. She stated that it would be a 1099 contract and she would not be employed by the village. She did state that all this was in her proposal that she presented to the board at the last

meeting. April read over the last part of her proposal just to clarify what she was speaking in regards to. Trustee Nelson spoke up and asked Trustee Paso if she was good with what was stated by April Wolfe. Trustee Paso stated that, at this time she is not comfortable with this proposal. A citizen of the community spoke up and wanted to know what this was in regards to, since he had arrived at the meeting later and was unaware of what the discussion was about. April spoke up and stated that the discussion was in regards to her being the marketing and media manager and that she would be posting stuff on social media for the Village of Kincaid. April stated that she has been doing this on her own time for almost a month now. She did this as a trial basis to see what the stats would be on line. She also stated that the board is trying to work hard to bring more positivity to the community and she feels that the media and marketing aspects of it, would help showcase the village in a better way. April also feels that since people are working hard at their jobs for the village, that they do not always have the time to post things on social media. April also stated that she could do this out of the comfort of her own home and would not even have to step foot in the office. Trustee Lawrence had a few questions in regards to April's proposal. He wanted to know if it would be on trial basis or something else. April stated that in her proposal, she had put a trial period of about a year, just to see how things go. Trustee Paso asked about what the basis would be for her being the marketing and media manager. April spoke about stats from posting things on line and how they have gone up or down from posting different things for the village.

Trustee Nelson spoke up and stated that he feels that in his mind, this is a good thing, especially with infrastructure and getting the word out there. He spoke mainly about the camping spots that are out at the lake. He feels that we need to get the word out more to the community and surrounding areas, in order to let people know that we have these available. He also spoke about the fact that we are asking for certain amounts to rent the spots out, that in fact, the money we bring in for these spots, we could pay April for her services. He spoke about doing this on a trial basis to see how it would go. He did state that he is not in favor of the fact that we have a board member who would have to abstain from voting, since he is related to April.

Attorney Jared Rahar, who was on the phone at the meeting, spoke up and stated that he wanted to clarify two things. One, he stated that it is a conflict of interest, but he did say that it is not illegal to hire her on a contractual basis. Number two, he stated that Trustee Paso was correct in saying that, since this position would be a contracted position, it would need to be posted for other people to apply. He stated that it should be offered to other people and then if the board felt that April was the best qualified individual for the position, then so be it. Trustee Paso spoke up and stated that we need to discuss this and see if this is a position that the village needs at this time. This will be tabled till the next meeting in August. A motion to table it was made by Trustee Nelson, a second was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

- Putting a buzzer on front door of office- The clerk spoke up and stated that she looked into two different estimates for the front door. The first estimate was from Johnson Control's out of Springfield. Their cost overall was \$6,920.35. The second estimate was from Lighthouse Lock & Key for a total cost of \$892.00. These do not include having a camera. Trustee Nelson spoke up and stated that he feels that we need to have something in place that is more secure, especially

when we have people who are coming up to pay ordinances or fines. The clerk stated that when she is up at the office, she can lock the doors and just let people in as they come to the door. Trustee Lawrence made a motion to have the clerk look into purchasing a Ring Door Bell, a second motion was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Switching phone and internet providers to CTI- The clerk spoke up in regards to this matter and stated that before we decide to go with them, she had been in contact with the representative of CTI to see when exactly they were going to go "Live" here in Kincaid. When she spoke with the representative, they had stated that it will still be a few months before they will be able to start getting people hooked up. She also asked the representative if the village would be able to get a discount, since we are a municipality. The representative is looking into this matter and stated that she would get back in touch with the clerk, once she has some numbers for her. A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to table this until we get more information. A second motion was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Changing the water rate for the bulk water machine- Foreman Mark Wolfe spoke up about the fact that we were going to go to \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons. Right now, we are at \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons. He stated that three other towns around us are at, \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons. He stated to cover the cost on having the card reader machine, we would need to be at \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons. A motion was made to raise the water rate up to \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons by Trustee Nelson. A second was made by Trustee Lawrence. All Ayes. This also applies to raising with the water rates, to be consistent with Taylorville. It will be 2% every year, beginning Jan. 1st.

- New Business

- Putting signs out at the park for catch and release on fish- Trustee Lawrence stated that a citizen of the community had contacted him about putting this on the agenda. It was talked about having a sign to put out at the park for catch and release on bass fish. A motion was made to put the sign out at the park, by Trustee Lawrence. A second was made, by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Approval of changing the Lake Kincaid signs on 104- Trustee Nelson spoke up and stated that he asked for this to be on the agenda. He stated that right now what we have on 104, just says Kincaid Lake. He is suggesting that we have a bigger sign that states, Lake Kincaid, and RV spots, along with a contact number. He is proposing that we change both signs going east to west. Foreman, Mark Wolfe spoke up and stated that the signs belong to the state. Mark stated that he could probably contact someone in regards to changing the sign. He is pretty sure there will be a fee to do this though. There was some discussion on putting some signs out at the lake as well, but what Trustee Nelson's intention was to have signs out towards the road to let people know what we have and to advertise more. A motion to table this idea made by Trustee Lawrence, a second was made by Trustee Warren. All Ayes.

- The use of 4-wheelers in town- Trustee Lawrence spoke up about the problems that we are having with them in town. He stated that there are some people who have followed the rules

and put turn signals on and have come up and put stickers on them. He stated that there are roughly around 6 that do not have stickers on them. There are too many calls coming in, with problems that have to do with the 4-wheelers. Stickers are due in May of next year. A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to do away with 4-wheelers in town and being able to ride in them. This will start May 1, 2024. Mayor Robert Morris stated that Edinburg does not allow 4-wheelers in town. A second motion was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Storm damage repair to a building at the park/park restroom repairs- Trustee Warren stated that he wanted this on the agenda because he knows we have an issue especially with the restrooms. He stated that we need see if we have the money in our budget to repair them or even maybe see if people would like to donate a toilet. Mayor Robert Morris stated that, he did call Habitat for Humanity and the toilets there cost around \$50/ a piece. In regards to the storm damage to the building out at the park. Foreman, Mark Wolfe stated that he is still waiting on some estimates but he did talk to RP lumber and stated it would cost around \$4,100 to fix and we have a \$500 deductible. The building is insured for \$22,000 right now. Right now, we are just waiting on bids for the building to see who we can go with. Mayor Robert Morris spoke back up in regards to the restroom issue. He stated that if we do go ahead and put new toilets in, we are also going to have to put heat in there as well. Trustee Nelson stated he would donate \$100 to buy a few toilets for the restrooms. Obviously not having any heat in the restrooms during the winter time, is the main cause of some of the issues. Foreman, Mark Wolfe stated that in the past, there have been several kids that have been able to squeeze themselves through the closed bars and they have gone into the restrooms and took the backs off them and smashed them all. As far as heat goes. There was a discussion of putting in little heaters to keep the pipes from freezing in the winter time. A motion was made to table this for more discussion at the next meeting, by Trustee Lawrence and a second was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Approval of bills- A motion was made to approve the bills by Trustee Nelson, a second motion was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

- Zoning report- Trustee Lawrence stated that he issued 2 building permits. One on a deck and the other was on a house here in town. Trustee Nelson spoke up and asked about the gaming parlor that is supposed to be going in across from the village. The clerk spoke up and stated that, the lady who owns the building, has not been over there for awhile now. So as of now, there is no news on when it would open.

- Approval of Treasurer's report- Treasurer, Beverly Merano stated that she had handed out her report to all the board members and asked if anyone had any questions. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by, Trustee Gibson, a second motion was made by Trustee Nelson. All Ayes.

- Clerk's report- The clerk gave a report on what was collected in golf cart stickers and also boat stickers. She also spoke about the RV spots that are out at the lake right now. She stated that we have had a few people rent out the spots several weekends in May and in June. She

also spoke about what has been collected over the past month with the bulk water machine and the purified water machine. Trustee Nelson spoke up and asked how soon we could raise the rate on the bulk water machine. Foreman, Mark Wolfe spoke up and stated that we are still waiting on the machine to come in before we implement the new price change. The clerk also stated that she handed out the reports for the bills and deposits for the month of June.

- Police report- Officer Hubbs handed out his report for the past month and he went over how many stops were made, calls and ordinance violations that were handed out.
- Foreman's report- Mark Wolfe handed out his report to all the board members and spoke about the RV spots that had been rented out at the lake. He stated that now that we have electric out at these spots and that the cost for the electricity is inexpensive at this time. He also spoke in regards to the vacant building out at the lake and that it is for sale now. The owners are wanting at least \$30,000 for the building. He was able to find out why they are asking for so much, but that is how much it would cost to rebuild that building as of today. He talked to the board about possibly getting the building appraised to see if it is even worth that much. There was talk about splitting the cost of the appraisal with the Youth Association, since they are the ones that own the building. Trustee Lawrence spoke up about how much the Youth Association has done for this town and that he wants to work with them on this and be fair. Mayor Robert Morris asked Mark, if he had heard anything more about the new meters that we had purchased. Mark stated that they are supposed to be here in September of this year.
- Attorney's report- Attorney Jared Rahar spoke up and stated that he really did not have any major updates to report, except that they should be close to a resolution on the Shehadah and Daum cases soon. He stated that they did have motion hearings, but they were tabled till the next official hearing. Rahar asked the clerk to add him to the closed session for next month, because he thinks he will have further information to give about these cases.
- President's report and comments- Mayor Robert Morris stated that he did not have anything for this evening.
- Trustee's report and comments- Trustee Paso spoke up and stated that, as soon as she can find a blue tooth speaker from her house, she is going to bring it up to the meetings, so we can hear things better. Especially when you have board members who call in by phone. Trustee Lawrence spoke up and stated that he wanted to see what the board members thought about raising the rates for the RV spots, especially when there are special events going on out at Dirt Riders. There was talk about possibly raising the rates to around \$75/ per night. Other places around the area charge, \$100/ per night for special events. Trustee Lawrence brought up a good point in regards to the park kitchen. He stated about possibly having a clip board with people's names on it and having them sign in and out. That if the kitchen is clean, to sign out when they are done, stating that it is left as clean as when they had found it. A citizen of the community spoke up and wanted to give Foreman, Mark Wolfe and the village guys a big thank you, for all they have done to help clean up the village, especially after the storm damage. Trustee Lawrence asked the Treasurer how much we came out on, with regards to the Sunday-

Funday event. Treasurer, Beverly Merano stated that she is still waiting on one bill from Ron's Produce, but that so far, we were at loss of \$879.50.

A motion was made to go into closed session by Trustee Lawrence, a second was made by Trustee Dees. All Ayes. The time was 7:30 p.m.

- Closed session:

Meeting to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

A motion was made to come out of closed session by Trustee Lawrence, a second was made by Trustee Warren. All Ayes. The time was 8:10 p.m.

After closed session, a motion was made by Trustee Nelson that we pay \$25/ an hour for a certified police officer, K-9 and or part-time officer. A second motion was made by Trustee Gibson. All Ayes.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Trustee Nelson. A second motion was made by Trustee Warren. All Ayes.

The meeting minutes were taken by the Village Clerk

Stephanie Brown