Regular Meeting Village Hall Wednesday, April 16, 2025 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Village board opened with Acting Mayor Laura McMahon presiding. Trustees present were as follows: Roy Dean Dickey, Natalie Krause, Chris Klingeman and Bryan Bingel. Todd Kinzel was absent.

Chad Easton-Village Administrator and Laura Ottens-Chief of Police were present.

Visitors present were Mike Trotter-County Journal, Larry Weekley, Pam Baker, John Baker, Angie Stein, Julie Seymore, Kenneth Chandler, Theresa Holloway, Kathy Wright and Riley Goodwin.

Acting Mayor Laura McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Todd).

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Natalie to approve the Village of Marissa Financial Report. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

No correspondence.

Acting Mayor Laura McMahon reported that she met with Mike Minks and Chris Sinn about the bridge by Casey’s. The Bridge was torn down due to safety issues, and we are waiting on bids from Chris and Mike. Vinyl sleeves have been placed around the post on the Bob Heil sign. Plants will be placed around the sign to make it prettier. The South Park had new rubber mulch laid. We are getting numbers together to replace pumps. Fire Department donated a pump, but it is not working. The Street workers did a great job keeping the sewer plant running without any issues or violations during the last rainstorm. Bryan asked why we don’t have a spare pump. Chad told him that the cost of a spare pump is $60,000.00.

Roy Dean reported that the Street workers are still working on getting the old City Shed cleared.

Natalie had no report.

Chris reported that the American Legion purchased a Flag for the Khoury League Ball Diamonds. The pole is already there but needed a Flag and the working parts to raise it. The Flag will have a solar light just the same as at the four-way stop.

Bryan reported that the pump the Fire Department was going to give to the Village were obsolete and Justin didn’t want them because they were no good.

Bryan also reported that Dan Seiber approved the following permits: Teresa Crouse a 4’ chain link fence at 214 N. Park and Bryan Gall a roof solar mount at 9801 Risdon School Road.

Village Administrator Report:

Chad reported that the poles for the Storm Sirens have been set. The Village ended the Fiscal year with $500,000.00 to the good. This is mostly due to the lack of Police last year. Chad read the letter from the denied Block Grant and let the Board and attendees present that as of right now the projects that were approved the grant have not seen any funding. We have many resources still left to make the retention pond happen. We can also start with little projects to help with the flooding. Chad is going to meet with Mark Kern about the retention pond and he is going to ask questions regarding the $300,000.00 County grant that was approved to help the Police in 5 underdeveloped communities in St. Clair County. Chief Ottens will be getting a new Police car. New body cameras and dash cameras are being purchased. Bryan asked if Chad had been in contact with any of the State representatives regarding the flooding. Chad said that they had been here several years back but not recently. Chad is going to send out e-mails on Thursday to them. Bryan stated that the 3 storm sirens would cover a large majority of the town. The County will pay for cost for the first year and the Village will be responsible for all years after. The Village will be responsible for purchasing a Storm Siren for the Rec Area that will be connected to the 3 in town. The County controls the sirens, but a deal was made that it can be set off manually if needed.

Citizens wishing to speak:

Kenneth Chandler says that the flooding is a real issue. He says that the highway keeps getting raised and it needs to be taken back down to the curbing. Chad and Butch walked the ditches to Waste Management and found no obstructions.

Angie Stein spoke about an item on the agenda. Angie would like to have a city wide clean up day on the first weekend in June. This will coincide with the E-recycle day. There will be 3 roll offs donated by Waste Management. One will be placed at the South end of town, and One will be placed at the North end of town. One will also be placed somewhere yet to be determined for Yard Waste. If you need help or a truck to haul off your trash Angie would like you to call Village Hall and give your name address and phone number to Donna so a list can be made, and Angie can contact them the day of the clean-up. This is something she would like to do semi-annually every year. Organizations and groups are volunteering to help the elderly and those without trucks. Angie would like to have the clean-up day advertised on the sign outside of town and placed on the back of the water bills. The Food Pantry are placing a paper ad in the Food bags at the Pantry.

John Baker asked what is going on with the new Car wash because it tis becoming an eyesore. Should we not hold businesses to a higher standard, so they take care of their property. John asked Chad about the pump that needed rewound. Chad told him that the impellor was broken.

Larry Weekley is concerned about the flooding and if we have $500,000.00 left in the budget why are the pumps not fixed. Chad explained to him the way the pumps rotate and pump and that the sewer and flooding are two separate issues.

Riley Goodwin said that he met with a grant person and not to feel bad about not getting the Block Grant because it was the hardest one to get. Riley had spoken with Justin, and he did find blockages in some ditches.

Pam Baker asked what the problem was at the four-way stop with the flooding. The last flood she noticed that all roads were flooded. The water tore off chunks of road by Pam’s house. Chad noted that the water does recede quickly.

Old Business:

Ordinances are still ongoing.

New Business:

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Chris to approve a semi-annual city-wide cleanup days for June 5th-7th 2025. Motion passed with roll call as follows. Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Todd).

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Bryan to approve a demo bid for the old Street Department Shed. Bids opened on Tuesday at 10:00 am and the only bid received was from Becky’s Construction Company for $44,000.00. Asbestos testing will be done before tearing down. June 1, 2025, is the slated date to begin. Natalie asked about no backfilling being on the exclusions. This only means that they will not level the ground over to the Fire Department. No empty hole will be left in the ground. Motion passed with roll call as follows. Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Todd).

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to approve a fence for the new Street Department location. The bids opened on Tuesday at 10:00 am and the only bid was from Belleville Fence for $28,755. Bryan asked about the exclusion of the layout and the background checks. Chad told him that one tree still needed to be removed, and that the Village told them exactly where they wanted the fence. Chad will get more information on exactly what they meant by excluding background checks. Motion passed with roll call as follows. Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Todd).

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to approve the 25/26 Budget. Sales Tax was cut by $80,000.00 but no significant changes were seen from the closing of Riess Ford. Money is set aside over the next 2 years for the 4-way Stop project and a new trash truck. Senior Center will get new tables. Police Department will be getting new dash and body cameras. There will be a yearly expense with the cameras. The old Riess Ford building attached to the Food Pantry will need a new roof. The budget is a net zero balanced budget. The $95,000.00 budgeted for MFT excludes roller and road reclaimer rental. Motion passed with roll call as follows. Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Todd).

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Bryan to enter Executive session at 8:07 pm regarding Litigation. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Bryan-absent, Laura-yes, Roy Dean-yes, Chris-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

Roll call was taken to re-establish a quorum. Roy Dean-here, Natalie-here, Todd-absent, Chris-here, Bryan-absent, Laura-here.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Bryan to re-enter regular session at 8:29 pm. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Natalie-yes, Todd-absent, Bryan-absent, Laura-yes, Roy Dean-yes, Chris-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to adjourn at 8:29 pm. Motion passed with 4-ayes, 1-nay (Bryan), 1-absent (Todd).