

2/24/25 Board of Trustees
Emergency Meeting for Management of Grant Funds
4:00 PM Community House

Present: Mayor Dawn White, Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool, Trustees: Steve Elwood, Gary Warn, Julie Eisele, Art Dockerty, Attorney Norman Mastromoro, Police Chief Chad Manley, Fire Chief Chris Weaver

Public: Charlie Straney, Daniel Nicotera, Pamela Cool, Kathy Buckley, John Lull

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Mayor White and the pledge was said.

Situation: Trustee Eisele reviewed that Wednesday, 2/19/2025, the Mayor and the Board of Trustees learned that grant funds and non-grant funds were used to cover operational Village expenses instead of other available cash resources. This was not an authorized use of grant funds and next steps need to be determined so that 1) monies are replaced immediately, and 2) a plan of correction is developed to prevent this from happening in the future.

Grant funds that are known to have been affected include:

- ARPA funds
- St. Johnsville Police Department Law Enforcement Technology (LETECH) Program

Non-grant funds that are known to have been affected include:

- Fire Department Truck Fund
- Marina monies
- Water/sewer monies

Norman Mastromoro reviewed Local law 5.

Short-Term Financial Mitigation Plan: (John Lull)

- The short-term financial mitigation plan included transfers recommended by John Lull including cashing out of 4 CD's held by Community Bank and essential spending only at this time. Trustee Eisele made a motion to accept the short term financial mitigation plan and Trustee Warn seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.
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- Trustee Eisele made a motion to not accept pay as a Trustee member until the Village cashflow is improved. Trustee Elwood seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Long-Term Recovery Plan

- Motion to accept Long-Term Financial Mitigation Plan: Long term planning will include Placing internal financial controls and policies, requesting an audit, and making adjustments in the upcoming budget for emergencies. _

Further Procedural Review

- The Comptroller's office was consulted about any further actions that need to be explored and it was found that this was a highly irregular and illegal occurrence. Board discussed a need for internal controls to prevent issues like this in the future.
- Full audit was recommended by Trustee Eisele. John Lull stated that a full audit would be costly and time consuming and recommended a narrower scope. A motion was made by Trustee Eisele and seconded by Trustee Warn to complete a financial audit to ensure that there are no further issues identified.

Public Comment:

- Charlie Straney stated that he feels the Villages financial problems have been coming on for some time.

- Jayna Cool stated that she has always notified the Mayor and the Board of Trustees prior to moving any moneys between accounts. She also stated that “She has run this village almost completely by herself for the past 5 ½ years.”
- Kathy Buckley made comment as to she feels the Mayor is doing a poor job running the Village, and that it is the Boards responsibility to provide education for office staff.
- Pamela Cool expressed her anger that her daughter has been put on administrative leave.

7:02 pm – A motion to move to executive session was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Eisele to discuss personnel matters. All ayes, motion carried.

Proper procedures for management of Grant monies and General Fund monies was reviewed in addition to current practices.

Return to Open Session:

A motion to return to open session at 8:15 PM was made by Trustee Warn and seconded by Mayor White. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM was made by Trustee Warn and seconded by Mayor White. All ayes, motion carried.
Next meeting-March 11th at 5:30PM