

**COAL CITY VILLAGE BOARD METING  
OCTOBER 26, 2022**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTIES OF GRUNDY AND WILL  
VILLAGE OF COAL CITY**

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, Mayor Terry Halliday called to order the meeting of the Coal City Village Board in the boardroom of the Village Hall. Roll call- Trustees Dave Togliatti, Ross Bradley, Dan Greggain, Dave Spesia, Tim Bradley and Sarah Beach. Also in attendance were attorney Mark Heinle, Sgt. Tom Logan, Matt Halloran from Chamlin Engineering and Matt Fritz, village administrator.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting were presented. Spesia moved to approve the minutes as written, second by R. Bradley. Roll call-Ayes; Togliatti, Bradley, Greggain, Spesia, Bradley and Beach. Nays; none. Motion carried.

The warrant list was presented. Following comments and questions, Spesia moved to approve the warrant list, second by R. Bradley. Roll call-Ayes; Togliatti, Bradley, Greggain, Spesia, Bradley and Beach. Nays; none. Motion carried.

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Brian Zabel from Brian Zabel and Associates, presented the Independent Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022. The Audit was previously reviewed by the Finance Committee held prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Zabel presented a brief overview of the Audit noting changes, fund reports and budget figures. He stated that the Police Pension Fund is slightly overfunded, but that it was right on pace. He complimented the staff on supplying the adequate documents for this Audit. T. Bradley moved to accept the FY22 Annual Audit as presented, second by R. Bradley. Roll call-Ayes; Togliatti, Bradley, Greggain, Spesia, Bradley and Beach. Nays; none. Motion carried.

Resolution 22-15 regarding Special Detail to assist Dresden Generating Station during the outage was presented and reviewed by the Board. Sgt. Logan stated that the Coal City Police Department would be assisting Constellation with traffic management beginning October 27<sup>th</sup> until November 20<sup>th</sup>. Greggain moved to adopt Resolution 22-15 entering into an Agreement with Constellation providing Special Police Detail for their

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upcoming outage, second by T. Bradley. Roll call-Ayes; Togliatti, Bradley, Greggain, Spesia, Bradley and Beach. Nays; none. Motion carried.

An Employment Agreement for employee Jacque Allen was presented to the Board. Mr. Fritz stated that Jacque has worked fulltime for the Village for 22 years as the water billing clerk. He commended her for her professionalism, high collection rate in utility billing services, and repore with the public. In addition, she also does payroll for the Village employees. She has been discussing a possible retirement date with him. Because of the tentative retirement date and final compensation figures, an employment agreement is necessary. Mrs. Allen was present in the audience and Mayor Halliday invited her to speak on her behalf. Mrs. Allen stated that she has sent the Village Board a request to meet with them on July 1<sup>st</sup> and e-mailed the Board on September 8<sup>th</sup> voicing her concerns about not being treated fairly and that there appears to be favoritism in the office, at which time Mr. Fritz told her that the Board did not want to meet with her. She stated that she was offered a 7% pay increase and being presented with an employment agreement when others in the office were given a 14% and 15% wage increase. Mayor Halliday acknowledged that the e-mails had been received by the Board and it was decided that Mrs. Allen would go through Mr. Fritz because that is his job. He stated that he cannot make up for the past years. Mrs. Allen said that the salary study conducted in 2019 reported that Mrs. Allen was underpaid, and now as she is approaching retirement, it's too late to catch her up, but when she sees others receiving an additional fifty cents raise on their anniversary date along with the yearly raises for five years, she finds it hard to watch others receive substantial raises while there is haggling with a 7%-9% raise. Mayor Halliday stated that is Matt's job and not the Boards, as they are here to make policy and not get involved in the everyday operations. Mayor Halliday said he appreciated her service to the community and has done a fantastic job. Attorney Heinle stated:

- Legislation has curved the practice of pension spiking wherein inflated compensation impacts the pension liability
  1. The Village will pay an accelerated pension penalty if the Village would increase the last year of employment by a retired party more than 1.5 times the inflation rate; the September rate was 8.2%
  2. In order to avoid the Village paying the penalty, they have to make sure the compensation is not more than the 1.5 times the inflation rate which amounts to 12%. Jacque's final rate of pay will be 11.6% higher than it was at the end of FY22.

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3. There exists a transparency requirement wherein if the Village is giving an employee in their last year of employment, a rate that exceeds 6% there has to be a public disclosure. The proposed Employment Agreement contains the relative information which satisfies that provision. The proposed retirement date is May 12, 2023. The final rate of pay is 11.6% higher than what she earned at the end of April 2022.

There will be additional calculations to be determined regarding the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). The Agreement provides a two-step raise; effective immediately upon passage of \$28.42, then \$28.96 from May 1, 2023 to date of retirement. 40% of the sick time will be paid out at the \$28.96 rate, but Jacque may retire before the proposed May 12, 2023 date if she desires. R. Bradley moved to authorize Mayor Halliday to enter into an Employment and Transition Agreement regarding Jacque Allen's final compensation, second by Greggain. Roll call-Ayes; Togliatti, Bradley, Greggain, Spesia, Bradley and Beach. Nays; none. Motion carried.

Mayor Halliday reported on the Grundy County Transportation meeting which he attended with Mr. Fritz. The Coal City Junior Woman's Club are requesting permission for the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony to be scheduled for Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. The Board agreed to the event. The Board will approve the request by motion at their next meeting.

T. Bradley thanked the staff for their assistance with the annual audit.

Matt Halloran reported that the street program is complete. Sewer treatment plant is progressing with the block walls up in a couple of weeks.

Sgt. Logan reported that the Coal City Police Department has received a grant in the amount of \$44,552.00 for license plate recognition cameras; one stationary and two vehicle cameras.

Mr. Fritz reported:

- Grundy County Transportation Plan is a \$400,000.00 grant with \$320,000.00 of it to be paid by the Federal Government and \$6,300.00 of the balance

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Coal City Village Board Meeting

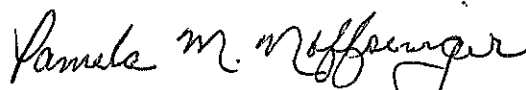
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will be the responsibility of Coal City. Grundy County will pay for the majority of the balance.

- Coaler Business Alliance represented by the Grundy County Chamber will be at the next Village Board meeting with the promotion of the "Passport" program
- Danny Lewis of the Coal City maintenance department represented the Village at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Fair. He had a hands-on program that was well received.

T. Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Beach. Roll call-Ayes; Togliatti, Bradley, Greggain, Spesia, Bradley and Beach. Nays; none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



Pamela M. Noffsinger, Village Clerk