

The Andover Village Board met on Monday, May 5, 2025, with the following members present Kevin Betcher, Elma Gay, Dan Heiar, Jennifer Hirsch, Valli Putnam, Conner Riddell, Mike Mielke, Garrett Adamson, and Bev Josephson. Also present were Ken Estes and Ron Grymonprez Village Employees; Dave Riddell, Water Operator; and Mike Halpin, Village Attorney.

The minutes of April 7, 2025, regular Board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Dan to accept the minutes, and Kevin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 24, 2025 Street and Sidewalk Committee meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Dan to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The Village of Andover Financial Report through April 30, 2025, was reviewed. A motion was made by Elma to accept the report and Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Village of Andover General Fund bills through May 5, 2025, were reviewed. Conner made a motion to approve the bills and Valli seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Andover Water Bills through May 5, 2025, were reviewed. A motion was made by Dan to approve the bills and seconded by Elma. Motion carried.

Visitor Comments

Kelly Wolf from Henry County Tourism. They have commercials thru WQAD, Galesburg and Peoria. They have a new Henry County magazine which showcases different events, shopping and museums. The event brochure guide which be distributed throughout the state and Iowa has been updated. Kelly said they are hoping to have a booth at the Henry County Fair to highlight bicentennial for Henry County.

Conner said that people have asked him about golfcarts being drive in the park. They are not allowed according to the signage posted. Mike and/or Ken will talk to Wendell about his golf cart driving around the park. Wendell can still access two sides of the lake driving his golf cart.

Elma said that several individuals have contacted her about the grass streets being farmed or taking a portion of the street for their crops. Ike said he has contacted Keith Poppy and Rod Olson about only farming the farm ground and not taking any portion of our grass streets.

Old Business – Water System

Mike does not have update on the water project at this time. He has reached out to Rep. LaHood and Jack didn't back to him either. The generator has been installed, and the tech will be here on May 12 and on May 13th the generator will be started up.

Andover 190th

Elma handed out an updated list of events. Copies of the flyer will be distributed to the elementary school children in Orion and Cambridge. Valli met with Trophy World about the plaques, and they have been completed. There are 3 places: one to be posted on the gazebo, another to explain Ron's involvement in the gazebo which will be placed the ground next to the gazebo and another for the tree in Ron's memory planted at the museum.

Conner asked for \$500 for the fishing derby as costs for the prizes have increased and any leftover prizes can be used next year. There was also discussion about the tug-of-war which is planned for 2:00pm. There will probably only be 2-3 tugs, and it will be for Andover residents only. The firm contacted for the bounce house has gone out of business so that will not be at the celebration. Alpha Baptist Church will man the concession stand during the ball games.

Elma made a motion for a check of \$500 for fishing derby and \$2500 for food, entertainment and plaques and Kevin seconded the motion. Motion varied.

Easter Egg Hunt

Bev reported there were over 70 kids, and a good time was had by all. She again thanked those volunteers who helped put out the eggs.

2025-2026 Budget

The 2025-2026 budget/appropriations were reviewed. Line item 78 needs to be changed to \$2500 and \$3000. At least one more quote for the handicap steps for the gazebo was requested. Corrections to the budget will be made and it will be presented at the June meeting for approval.

Employee Evaluations

Bev said she made an error when she gave Dave's current salary at the meeting. It was suggested to keep the increase the same and base it off of his current salary which is \$14.483 and \$20/hour for additional work/projects. Kevin made a motion to adjust Dave' salary with the 3.5% increase and Elms seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Baseball Diamond

Mike said he did not get the revised contract completed. Orion Little League was contacted and told it is open for practice and games. Bruce Laleman told Mike that any equipment purchased by the Outlaws was removed from the shed.

Southerland House

Mike said Jeff Southerland contacted him after he received the letter from Mike Halpin. Mr. Southerland is retired and in his early 70s and he does understand the condition of the house. He goes to Florida during the winter and lives in his RV. He can't afford to pay for the house to be torn down but he asked if the Village was willing to work with him. Mike will contact Ballegeers and Westerlund's to get an estimate on the cost.

A control burn by the fire department is not really an option because of the inspections and permits required,

Other New Business

None.

Swore in Newly Elected Officials

The newly elected officials were sworn into office.

Mowing at Historical Museum and Women's League Building

Elma asked if the Village could start mowing the Andover Historical Museum and the Women's League Building. Steve Stone has been doing it but with his health issues he would like to step down. If the Village would take this on, they would charge at a rate of \$50.00 an hour. Mike asked Ken and Ron to keep track of the time it takes them to mow the two properties. It will be done by the Village through May at a rate of \$50 for each mowing.

Conner made a motion to mow the Women's League and Andover Historical Museum for \$50 for each mowing through the month of May. Valli seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Repair Property North of Village Hall

Mike said Bruce Marshall had investigated the water standing the in the field next to the Village Hall. The tile actually starts across the street and runs to the place that is wet. The actual property owner lives in Rock Island. The Village has mowed and maintained this property for many years. Dave Riddell said he thought the Village paid for the original tile, but it was done 10-15 years ago. This needs to be fixed as it is an area that will be used for the 190th celebration. Jennifer made a motion to approve the repair of the property up to \$5,000 and Elma seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gazebo Handicap Accessible Ramp

The bid for the handicap accessible ramp at the gazebo was reviewed. It was suggested to get one or two more bids. Elma will get additional bids.

2025 Street Projects

Ken reviewed the streets that the Street Committee felt needed repair. Ken will submit the information to Cindi at IMEG.

Resignation of Treasurer

Mike thanked Garrett for his service. Bev will develop a posting for the position.

Further New Business

Elma suggested hiring someone for summer employment. If we use a high school student, they must be at least 14 and would be paid minimum wage. There are projects which have not completed in the past because the employees are so busy mowing. This will be placed on the agenda for further discussion next month.

Ron said when they fixed the Village Hall last summer they broke the septic cover. Ron went to Steve Emmerson in Geneseo, and he gave Ron one at no charge. Bev was asked to send him a thank you letter.

Adjournment

Jennifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Josephson, Village Clerk