

# Village of Evans Mills

Village Board of Trustees – Held at the Municipal Building

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 6:00PM**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance**

Robert Boucher – Mayor, Taylor Scheer – Clerk/Treasurer, Melissa Dobbins – Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, David Edwards – Superintendent Greg Smith – Trustee, JoAnna Malone – Trustee, Edward O'Brien – Trustee, Virginia Wendt – Trustee, Johnna Call – Resident, Mark Adams – Resident, Mary Palmer – Resident, Nathan Fleming – Resident, Bethany Cheever-Smith – Resident, Donald Smith – Resident.

### **Public Hearing, Installments on Property Taxes**

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing to gather thoughts of the village residents about abolishing the installments on Village Property Taxes. There were a few residents who voiced that the installment process has helped them ensure that the full amount of their property tax bill be paid on time. The Village residents also discussed that they did not receive any notice in the mail about the possibility of getting rid of the installments. In addition, these residents were inquiring if any other town had the same issue as the Village when it came to taking installment payments, although the Town of LeRay has their own tax collection system. Ms. Scheer stated that she would investigate that a little further.

The Village Board of Trustees opted into Tax Installments via Board Resolution in March 2021, therefore there is no reason to pass a local law. Per Jefferson County Real Property and Jefferson County Treasurers Office, the Village of Evans Mills is the only Village that opted to accept installments, out of 19 Villages. Due to this, the county tax system has had many errors over the past two collection periods, Ms. Scheer and Deputy County Treasurer, Dorena Kimball worked continuously to fix.

- Residents were confused with the tax bill and paid the wrong amounts.
- The county tax system was charging parcels the installment fee twice, the village office had to contact those parcels so they could write a new check.
- 20 parcels out of 272 Parcels used installments. (7.4%) used installments.
- Tax Installments started in March 2021
- With or without installments, residents have from June 1 to October 31 (4 Months) to pay their tax bill.
- Whatever parcels that are unpaid on October 31<sup>st</sup> are sent to Jefferson County for collection. Jefferson County then sends the total amount of unpaid parcels in April of each year to us, making us able to collect the total amount warranted for taxes.

## LIST OF PARCELS THAT USED INSTALLMENTS

- Goodnough – 55.63-1-6 8813-8817 N Main Street
- J. O'Brien – 55.64-1-1.91 – 8135 Schell Ave
- Fitzpatrick – 55.70-1-11 – 8328 Willow Ave
- Lanphear – 55.70-1-19.1 – 8334 Willow Ave
- Harkness – 55.70-1-20.4 – 8669 Cemetery Road
- Cheever – 55.71-1-41 – 8758 N Main Street
- Shawcross – 55.71-1-52 – 8527 LeRay Street
- Mercer – 55.71-1-59.2 -8571 - 8573 LeRay Street
- Granger – 55.71-2-24 – 8445 S Main Street
- Hoover Inn – 55.71-2-35 – 8711 Noble Street
- Scano – 55.71-2-47.1 – 8681 Church Street
- Kuhar – 55.78-1-1.1 – 8644 Cemetery Road
- Watson – 55.79-1-8 – 8672 Church Street
- Welser - 55.79-1-17 - 8627 Peck St
- Heisler - 55.79-1-18 - 8619 Peck St
- Phillips - 55.79-1-38 8367 S Main St
- Sebella - 55.79-1-41 - 8391 S Main St
- Rishe - 55.79-1-43 - 8407 S Main St
- E. Palmer - 55.80-1-16.21
- Vantassel - 65.23-1-4

The Tax System states we received \$2,053.44 although if you add all Installment fees together (highlighted in pink/purple)

According to office records/receipts, we only received \$558.57 (highlighted in pink).

The system still shows us charging parcels the installment fee TWICE. Although we do NOT, we charge the installment fee ONCE in the first installment payment.

The Tax system has the incorrect totals; therefore, the County Treasurers Office and the Village Clerk/Treasurer spent three days figuring out the correct numbers that way the county can collect the amount from said parcels on county taxes.

A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Wendt to keep the installments on Village Property Taxes.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Approval of Minutes from January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

A motion was made by Trustee Malone and seconded by Trustee Wendt to approve the Village Board of Trustees minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, board meeting.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Report from Dave Edwards, Superintendent**

Superintendent Edwards, as well as the whole board, have addressed a concern of a village resident. Mr. Adams had brought to the board's attention that his mailbox is continuously being hit and he's always having to replace it. He wants this resolved so his property is no longer affected. Mr. Adams also inquired about placing a guard rail of some sort, passing the bridge by South Main Street, to prevent people from going off the road. It was decided that the village board would need more time to look at this issue. More information will be presented next month.

A motion was approved to authorize signing the right-of-way documents from National Grid for the right of way to move their utility poles for the Noble Street Bridge Project by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee O'Brien.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Report from Taylor Scheer, Clerk-Treasurer**

Ms. Scheer notified the board of the loss of trash stickers in the postal system. Ms. Scheer also notified that there have been no bids for the municipal building windows.

A motion was made by Trustee Wendt and seconded by Trustee Malone to accept the resignation of Planning Board Member, Michael Gerhardt effective February 1, 2024.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Audited Vouchers:**

**GENERAL FUND:** Abstract 9, vouchers **\$31,304.25**

**WATER FUND:** Abstract 9 vouchers **\$3,215.66**

**SEWER FUND:** Abstract 9, vouchers **\$2,122.87**

**LIBRARY FUND:** Abstract 9 totaling **\$3,924.38.**

A motion was approved by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the audited vouchers for Abstract 9, the General, Water, Sewer, and Library Fund.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Department of Transportation Contract – Shared Use**

A motion was made to approve a 4-year Department of Transportation shared use contract by Trustee Malone seconded by Trustee Wendt.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **American Tower**

A motion was made to approve the signing of the American Tower Contract made by Trustee Wendt and seconded by Trustee Malone.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Budgetary Work**

Ms. Scheer presented the opening for overseeing the Summer Recreation program. Trustee Malone agreed to look after it, with the help of Trustee Wendt when needed.

Regarding the current sewer rate, the board has discussed possibly limiting the usage to 8,000 gallons or increasing the flat rate of sewer. This is still to be determined.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing to override the tax cap on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6pm made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Smith.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Wendt and Seconded by Trustee Smith to adjourn the Village Board of Trustees meeting at 7:40PM.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

***Motion Passed.***

Submitted by:

***Melissa Dobbins***

Deputy-Clerk Treasurer

*Taylor Scheer*

Village Clerk-Treasurer

Date: 2/21/2024

DRAFT