

Village of Grantfork

September 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Village Hall

Prepared by Theresa Levora, Village Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Wendy Reinacher-Heilig, Ron Wildhaber, Katie Scott, Sydney Thole, Lucas Haller, Theresa Levora and Justin Rottman in attendance. Carla Crawford and Nancy Schoen were absent.

Phil Decker and Steve Brendel were in attendance via Zoom.

Attorney Michael Wagner introduced himself as a potential new Village Attorney. His firm was started in Belleville in 2013. He presented his legal services and proposed a discounted hourly rate of \$245.00 per hour. No retainers. He was the City Attorney for East St. Louis for 20 years. He currently represents Pocahontas. He has been involved with Marion, Edwardsville, and Pontoon Beach. He has overseen park districts, school districts and hospital administrations. He just did a police contract in Caseyville. He has no police departments in Madison County. He doesn't play politics or represent any single individual. His biggest strength is communication. He will review grants but does not write them.

It was noted in the board discussion that our current attorney, Phil Lading charges only \$5.00 more per hour. He has valuable connections to courthouse and other county administrators. There will also be a considerable cost associated with switching representation to bring the new attorney up to speed.

Minutes from the Previous meeting

Ron motioned to accept the minutes, Wendy seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Katie, Wendy seconded. All in favor. Motion made by Katie to accept Ordinance 2025.09.01 Modifying Established Places of Deposits, Sydney seconded. Roll Call. 4 Ayes.

Authorization of Bills

Motion to pay the bills by Katie, seconded by Wendy. All in favor.

Code Enforcement

Mayor has been driving around the Village and everything looks good. There have been no complaints. Lucas agrees to be the enforcement officer.

Public Safety

Relief Center primary is Katie, the secondary is Ron. We are members of the Madison County All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This will open the door to state and federal grant funding. Katie made a motion to approve 2025.09.01R Adopting the Madison County All Hazards Mitigation Plan, seconded by Ron. Roll call. All Ayes. Plans were discussed to install severe weather sirens in Grantfork and Alhambra for a total estimated cost of approximately 100-140K including software and 10 years maintenance. The sirens would be located behind Village Hall due to better communication abilities and infrastructure covering both villages and surrounding areas. It would be a large siren on top of a 50 foot pole. The system would be GPS-based and independent between locations. The project is in early stages and will seek grant funding through FEMA and County resources.

A grant of \$1662.30 has been received from Highland Area Community Foundation to pay for the annual subscription to Lexipol, the legal policy compliance software the officers use in the field. The Mayor will attend the banquet to receive the check.

A recent traffic stop by Officer Sheppard resulted in a foot chase and the arrest of two individuals with pending warrants. Will find out the person's identity after charges are filed.

Public Works

Work has been finished on the water tower. Tank has been inspected and cleaned. We would like to add a fire hydrant outside the fence so the lines can be flushed without contaminating water. A lot of things were replaced that weren't planned on. This work is being done in anticipation of the Bond/Madison County shutdown of one tower.

A survey has been sent out to all residents that must be completed and returned to Phil. A new pump has been installed in the lift station by the cemetery.

Discussion about the replacement fire truck, 60K for the new one, current truck value is 30K.

Bob Meffert will be looking at our manger scene. He may be willing to repair or possibly rebuild. Wendy has purchased 5 new decorations for the light poles. She would like to get the decorations up around Thanksgiving and down by the 1st of the Year.

Old Business

Table the Business license until next month.

Ordinance 2025.09.03 Accepting the Findings of the Zoning Hearing Officer. The Board approved the request to build two buildings, including one that exceeds the 15 foot height limit, based on the hearing officer's approval and the fact that the Village is not responsible for enforcing

subdivision covenants. The Board acknowledged this could upset the neighbors but concluded that we are following Village ordinances and creating a precedent that would require similar requests to go through the same process. Roll Call. All Ayes.

Adjourn

Ron motioned to adjourn, Katie seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.