VILLAGE OF YATES CITY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 6:00 P.M. 102 WEST MAIN STREET, YATES CITY, ILLINOIS

1. **Call to Order**
   Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Tom Kinzer

2. **Roll Call**
   Present: Matt Ehens, Vonda Brinker, Tom Kinzer, Dave Mahr, Ron Smith
   Also Present: Zoe Walton, Chief Record, Joy Mahr, Neely Carr
   Via Phone: Seth Lekies
   Public: Kaiti Murphy, Terri German, Susan Elliott, Augusta Grohmann

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   All present stood and pledged the flag

4. **Citizens to Address the Board / Public Comment**
   Susan Elliott and Terri German addressed the Board with concerns about dogs running at large and enforcement of the Village's leash ordinance. Elliott described several incidents near Union and Williams Streets, including an incident involving her grandson and a July 17 incident in which dogs reportedly attacked a couple and their dog. She expressed concern about the safety of residents and children and asked what action was being taken. Chief Record stated that the Yates City Police Department had not received calls regarding some of the reported incidents but had issued citations for the dogs running at large. He also reported that Knox County had issued a citation following a separate dog-bite incident. The citations remained unpaid at the time of the meeting. Due to a potential conflict involving a Knox County employee, future calls regarding that property will be referred to the Yates City Police Department. Chief Record also mentioned that an underground fence had recently been installed at the property and the Village will monitor whether it addresses the issue. A separate concern was raised about dogs at another residence being left while the owner is away and the availability of Knox County Animal Control services within the Village. Susan Elliott also raised a visibility concern at the north east side of the bank alley where a large bush may obstruct the view of pedestrians using the sidewalk. The Village will look into trimming the bush. Augusta Grohmann asked about the Village's grass and weed ordinances as well as unlicensed or inoperable vehicles on residential property. She also asked about a cat leash law and whether the Village limits the number of cats a resident may keep or requires cats to remain on the owner's property.

5. **Discuss/Approve Appointment to Fill Village President Vacancy**
   Kaiti Murphy expressed interest in serving as Acting Village President until the April 2027 election. Murphy noted that she previously served as a trustee and would need to refamiliarize herself with the Village's updated ordinances. Tom Kinzer discussed the time commitment and responsibilities of the position. Trustee Seth Lekies also expressed interest in serving as Acting Village President. Matt Ehens requested that the Board prepare additional questions and discuss the candidates further at the next meeting. The matter was tabled until next month.

6. **Approve Minutes for July 1st, 2026 Committee Meeting, July 8th, 2026 Village Board Meeting and July 22nd, 2026 Village Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing**
   Ehens moved to approve the minutes for the July 1 committee meeting, July 8 board meeting, and July 22 public hearing. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call unanimous.

7. **Approve Monthly Bills, Payroll and Financial Statements**
   Kinzer moved to approve $6,000.00 from MFT Savings to MFT Checking. Brinker seconded. Roll call unanimous. Kinzer moved to approve monthly bills, payroll, and financial statements. Ehens seconded. Roll call unanimous.

8. **Police Report- Chief Record**
   No additions to public comment

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Trustee Kinzer: Finance/Insurance

(1) Reports:

Turned in the serial numbers for the radios to insurance.

B. Trustee Lekies: Water

(1) Reports:

(a) Update on Well/Reservoir Projects

Parts were changed out for the piping to go around the generator.

(b) Update on Isolation Valve Project

Shutoff on Monday to complete

(c) Update on Water Tower Inspection

None

C. Trustee Mahr: Sewer

(1) Reports:

Work included in the $6,200.00 quote is completed at the lift station. The remaining work has not been completed yet.

(2) Action Items:

(a) Approve Dry Sludge Hauling by John Woodcock to the Knox County Landfill in the Amount of $350.00 Per Load (Semi Dump Trailer Size) and Landfill Disposal Fee in the Amount of $63.00 per Ton

Ehens moved to approve the sludge hauling by John Woodcock to Knox County in the amount of $350.00 per load and $63.00 per ton disposal fee. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call unanimous.

(b) Approve the Purchase of 132 tons of FA4 Sand from Tremont Sand & Gravel in the Amount of $1,056.00

Discussed together with agenda item C

(c) Approve Hauling of 132 tons of FA4 Sand from John Woodcock in the Amount of $286.00 Per Load Not to Exceed Six (6) Loads

The Board discussed having the sand delivered one load at a time and renting a stand-behind skid steer or powered wheelbarrow to move it to the drying beds. The matter was tabled.

D. Trustee Ehens: Police

(1) Reports:

None

(2) Action Items:

(a) Enforcement of Ordinance Violation in the 400 Block of West Main Street

Chief Record attempted to contact the owner's daughter who indicated that someone would be hired to address the property conditions. The Board was also informed that the William Street property is again in violation of the Village's grass and weed ordinance. The Village will continue following up on both properties.

E. Trustee Smith: Streets/Alleys

(1) Reports:

(a) Update on Knox County Seal Coating

The date has been moved to August 24th.

Other: Update on tree in bank alley: Ehens was not able to locate the pins. The Bank provided him with the plot lines. Discussion was had on hiring Advanced Tree Service to remove the tree.

F. Trustee Brinker: Technology/Public Grounds

(1) Reports:

(a) Update on Mid-Century FRS Community Grant

The Board discussed replacing several security cameras, adding a camera near the recycling dumpster, and upgrading the monitor to improve the system's capabilities. Miko Armwood will complete the quote needed for the grant application.

G. President Pro Tem: Other

(1) Reports:

(a) Discuss Bottled Water Policy During Water Service Interruptions

Still looking into policy guidelines

(2) Action Items:

(a) Approve Purchase of Polaris Protection Plan in an Amount Not to Exceed $700.00

Smith moved to approve the 3-year protection plan in the amount of $700.00 Ehens seconded the motion. Roll call unanimous.

(b) Approve Release of Executive Session Minutes

Tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Ehens seconded the motion. Roll call unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm

Respectfully submitted,
Neely Carr
Village Clerk