

VILLAGE OF CLAYTON

A meeting of the Clayton Village Board was held on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, at 7pm.

Board members answering roll call were: Jamie Hicks, Denny Padgett, Misty Moore, Dan Ruffcorn, John Cunningham, Larry Schafer, Clerk, Niccie Peuster, and Mayor, Sam Miller. Also attending was employee, Bill Wilson, and Zoning Chairman, Gary Cantrell. Employee, Caleb Peuster and Chief of Police, Phil Zimmerman were absent.

Stephanie Maas from ABNG was in attendance to present the Village's completed 2024–2025 audit. No significant findings or irregularities were reported, and the audit reflected that the Village's financial records are in good order.

Dale Kill was in attendance to discuss the upcoming Old Settlers Celebration fireworks display. The event will be held August 14, 15, & 16th of this year. Jamie motioned and Dan 2nd for the Village to contribute \$4,200 towards the display. All approved. The Old Settlers Committee also wants to use the Legion Hall on March 29th for a ham & bean dinner fundraiser. Jamie motioned and John 2nd to approve them using the hall at no cost. All approved.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt held by the Clayton Fire Department on April 5th this year was discussed. Larry motioned and John 2nd to approve a \$75 contribution to the event. All approved.

No Presidents report at this meeting.

Jamie motioned and John 2nd to approve the minutes from the February 3rd Board meeting. All approved.

Niccie reported a 33% water loss from 1/14/26 to 2/13/26, down from 38% last month.

The water service for Betty Parker at 1006 E Outerbelt Dr was discussed due to a lack of water pressure. It was determined that installing a new tap and meter and move meter out of basement for her service is necessary to correct the issue. Jamie motioned and John 2nd to approve the work. All approved.

Nothing new to report at this time for the IEPA violation regarding the water line owned by Shelby Akers. We are currently waiting on everyone involved to decide on how they are going to proceed.

The Clayton Sanitary District was approached by the IRWA for discussion about Timewell pumping sewage to the Clayton lagoon. This is still in the preliminary phase, but it is something that is being considered by the Sanitary District and President Jamie Hicks has contacted the engineer to review the feasibility of the proposal, assess potential capacity and infrastructure needs, and provide preliminary cost estimates before any further action is taken.

Changing the water rates has been tabled to next month's meeting. Niccie is waiting on the final rate study to come back from the IRWA.

Zoning Chairman Gary Cantrell was present at this month's meeting and presented one building permit application for a portable shed at 305 W. Lafayette for Cheri Bustillo. Upon review of the submitted permit, it was determined that not all required information had been completed. The application will need to be corrected and resubmitted for further review.

The replacement of the culvert at 508 E. Lafayette was discussed. This matter will need to be addressed with the current property owner. The Village will cover the cost of up to 20 feet of the culvert; any additional length required will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Personnel: The pay rate for the upcoming mowing season for Paula Patton was discussed. Jamie motioned and Denny 2nd to increase the hourly rate for the 2026 season by \$2.00. All approved. A yearly performance review for Clerk/Treasurer, Niccie Peuster was conducted earlier the same day as this meeting. Following discussion of her performance and responsibilities, John motioned and Denny 2nd to give Niccie a pay increase of \$3.00 per hour. All approved.

A quote from Adams Fiber for security cameras was presented. (attached to minutes at Village office) After discussion, the Board determined that the quote was too high. Alternative options will be explored, and the matter will be revisited at a later meeting.

A quote from Blue Moon Fencing in the amount of \$1,980 was presented to repair a portion of the fence at the ballpark. However, the gauge of wire included in the quote was unclear and will need to be clarified before any action is taken.

The remaining concrete repair and replacement work at the ballpark shelter house was discussed. This matter will be followed up on, and bids will be obtained to determine how to proceed.

A quote from Mixer Lumber was presented outlining two different options for replacement doors for the ballpark bathrooms. After discussion Denny motioned and John 2nd to approve the purchase of 2 fiberglass doors for \$1,259.46 each. All approved. Options for updating the light fixtures in the bathrooms will be investigated and addressed at a later meeting.

Sam located a Fire King safe cabinet on Facebook Marketplace for \$1,500. This cabinet would replace all non-fireproof storage in the office, providing secure storage for all items. Niccie will follow up to determine if it is still available and feasible for pick up. Jamie motioned and Denny 2nd to approve purchase. All approved.

The solicitation for the CY2026-CY2027 Joint Purchase Master Contract for rock salt was discussed. Jamie motioned and John 2nd to enter contract for an obligation of 22 tons. All approved.

A police report was provided by Phil Zimmerman prior to the meeting. (attached to minutes at Village office) Jamie motioned and John 2nd to approve report. All approved.

It was noted that Spring clean up day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 7am to noon, to be held at the Village office.

Denny motioned and Jamie 2nd to approve bills for payment. All approved.

Denny motioned and Jamie 2nd to approve the Treasurer's Report. All approved.

Niccie brought up an outstanding gravel invoice for MacKenzie Crook for \$62.50. It was decided to have Barney Bier move forward with litigation on this. The Board also decided from now on any gravel purchases need to be paid for before delivery.

A meeting to decide the budget for the upcoming fiscal year has been set for Tuesday, March 24th at 5:15pm.

Nothing to report for either hall.

The tear down and removal of the water tower was discussed. We will set an amount in the upcoming budget for this.

An ordinance was presented for adopting a municipal grocery tax. Misty motioned and Dan 2nd to oppose adoption. All opposed.

The pickle ball court construction is waiting on warmer weather.

Jamie motioned and Larry 2nd to adjourn. All approved.

The next board meeting will be held on April 7th, 2026, at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Niccie Peuster, Village Clerk, 3/4/2026.