

VILLAGE OF ROSCOE

AGENDA ITEM - STAFF REPORT



Agenda Item:	Discussion of Illinois Secretary of State (DMV) facilities located at Roscoe Village Hall.		
Date:	May 17, 2024	Meeting:	May 17, 2024 - COTW
Prepared by:	Josef Kurlinkus	Department:	Administration

Overview/Background Information

In 1999, the Village of Roscoe purchased a parcel of land adjacent to what was at the time a combined Village Hall and Police Department, remodeled the small residential structure that was located on the parcel, and provided the use of the property to the Illinois Secretary of State for use as a department of motor vehicles facility. In 2010, Village Hall was remodeled into its current configuration, and the DMV moved into the location where it currently resides (after temporarily being relocated to the Roscoe Center shopping area), free of charge, and currently without a lease in place. For much of the earlier times that the DMV was located on Village property, it was generally well used facility, that was able to offer much of the services needed by the Village’s residents.

However, as the years have passed, the services offered by the Secretary of State at Roscoe’s “Express” DMV have become more and more limited. Currently, the Village’s DMV is only open 9am – 4pm Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and provides only a limited number of services (mainly renewals of drivers licenses – not requiring exams, license plate registrations, and state IDs). Notably, REAL IDs cannot be issued from this facility.

Additionally, since the COVID pandemic, Secretary of State Giannoulis has made it his goal to continue to modernize the Secretary of State, and to make services available through other means, or eliminate the requirements altogether, recently “... asking Illinoisans to start 2024 by making a New Year’s resolution: don’t come to the DMV,” ... “I’m serious. Don’t come unless you are 100 percent certain that you need to visit one of our facilities.”

However, the effect that these limited hours and push towards alternative means of service is that the many of those patrons of the DMV that do come to the Village facility either 1) come on a day or time that it is closed, or 2) must be sent away to another DMV because the service they are looking for is not available at the Village. A large percentage of the foot traffic coming into Village Hall on any given week are those looking for DMV services, and each week, quite a few of those people leave disappointed, angry or upset, often venting their frustrations at the Village staff – who help them as much as possible, but generally can only provide general information.

Most recently in 2017, and every few years prior to that, the Village Board has assessed the desirability of continuing to provide a space in Village Hall for use by the DMV. During the 2017 discussions the Village came close to entering into a lease agreement where the DMV would pay at least a small portion of the annual maintenance and upkeep the building, but the agreement was never finalized due to changes in the administration in Springfield. In light of the Secretary of State’s new priority of limiting the public’s in person interactions with the DMV, and because we have received a request from the DMV to install fiber optic equipment into Village Hall to serve their facility – which includes pushing a line under main street, into the parking lot, and installing conduit through the side of Village Hall – this appears to be an appropriate time to bring this back before the Board for discussion, and to provide village staff with direction on the future use of the space.