



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 7, 2024

*Via U.S. Mail and electronic mail*  
The Honorable G.W. Scott, Sr.  
Mayor  
Village of Caseyville  
909 South Main Street  
Caseyville, Illinois 62232  
gwscottsr@caseyville.org

RE: OMA Requests for Review – 2024 PAC 82061; 2024 PAC 82077  
**SECOND REQUEST**

Dear Mr. Scott:

On July 10, 2024, the Public Access Bureau sent you the attached letter requesting records and a response to the above-referenced Requests for Review. As of the date of this letter, this office has not received your response. Please forward the materials and information requested as soon as possible. Section 3.5(b) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2022)) provides: "Within 7 working days after receipt of the request for review, the public body shall provide copies of the records requested and shall otherwise fully cooperate with the Public Access Counselor." Please provide the requested information and records for this office's review. Please contact me at (217) 843-0564 or [laura.harter@ilag.gov](mailto:laura.harter@ilag.gov) if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura S. Harter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LAURA S. HARTER  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

500 South 2nd Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 782-1090 • Fax: (217) 782-7046

115 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 814-3000 • Fax: (312) 814-3806

1745 Innovation Drive, Suite C  
Carbondale, Illinois 62903  
(618) 529-6400 • Fax: (618) 529-6416

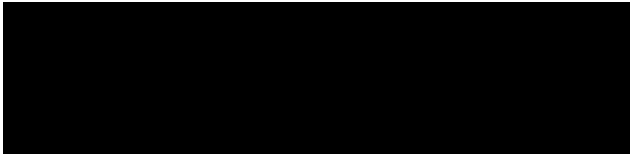
Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

The Honorable G.W. Scott, Sr.  
August 7, 2024  
Page 2

cc: *Via electronic mail*  
Mr. Bradley VanHoose



*Via electronic mail*  
Mr. John Kraft  
Edgar County Watchdogs



**From:** [Harter, Laura](#)  
**To:** "[gwscostr@caseyville.org](mailto:gwscostr@caseyville.org)"  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OMA Requests for Review 2024 PAC 82061; 2024 PAC 82077  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024 3:04:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [82061\\_82077\\_FI let.pdf](#)

---

Good afternoon:

Attached to this message is correspondence from the Office of the Attorney General's Public Access Bureau. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Laura S. Harter  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Public Access Bureau  
Office of the Attorney General  
500 South Second Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 843-0564  
[Laura.Harter@ilag.gov](mailto:Laura.Harter@ilag.gov)



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 10, 2024

*Via electronic mail*

The Honorable G.W. Scott, Sr.  
Mayor  
Village of Caseyville  
909 South Main Street  
Caseyville, Illinois 62232  
gwscottsr@caseyville.org

RE: OMA Requests for Review – 2024 PAC 82061; 2024 PAC 82077

Dear Mr. Scott:

The Public Access Bureau has received the enclosed Requests for Review in which Mr. Bradley VanHoose and Mr. John Kraft allege that the Village of Caseyville Board of Trustees (Board) violated the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.* (West 2022)). In their Requests for Review, Mr. VanHoose and Mr. Kraft allege that at the July 3, 2024, meeting, the Board discussed topics beyond the scope of the cited exceptions for entering closed session. This office has determined that further inquiry is warranted.

To further evaluate this matter, please provide this office with copies of the July 3, 2024, meeting agenda, open and closed session minutes, and the verbatim recording of the closed session for this office's confidential review. Please provide a copy of the recording of the open session of the meeting, if one exists. Please also provide a written response describing the Board's public recital made pursuant to section 2a<sup>1</sup> of OMA and identify the specific exception(s) in section 2(c)<sup>2</sup> of OMA that the Board publicly cited as its basis for entering closed session during its July 3, 2024, meeting. Please explain how that exception, or any other exception listed in section 2(c) of OMA, applied to the Board's closed session discussion.

---

<sup>1</sup>5 ILCS 120/2a (West 2022).

<sup>2</sup>5 ILCS 120/2(c) (West 2022), as amended by Public Act 103-311, effective July 28, 2023.

500 South 2nd Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 782-1090 • Fax: (217) 782-7046

115 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 814-3000 • Fax: (312) 814-3806

1745 Innovation Drive, Suite C  
Carbondale, Illinois 62903  
(618) 529-6400 • Fax: (618) 529-6416

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)

The Honorable G.W. Scott, Sr.

June 10, 2024

Page 2

**As required by section 3.5(b) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2022)), please provide this information to our office within 7 working days after receipt of this letter.** As we conduct our review of this matter, we will notify you if we need to review additional records or information. You have the option under the Act to provide a written response to these allegations in addition to the requested materials. That response may take the form of a letter, brief or memorandum. Please note that under the Act, we are required to forward a copy of any response from a public body to the requester and provide the requester an opportunity to reply. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2022). The Act also permits a public body to provide a copy of a response with confidential information redacted for release to the requester. **If you claim that any portion of your written response is confidential, please send two versions of your response letter: a complete copy for this office's confidential review and a redacted version suitable for this office to forward to the requester.** If you believe that other documents or information would be helpful to us as we review the issues, you may submit additional records or affidavits.

Please contact me at (217) 843-0564 or [laura.harter@ilag.gov](mailto:laura.harter@ilag.gov) if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



LAURA S. HARTER  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Public Access Bureau

Attachment

cc: *Via electronic mail*  
Mr. Bradley VanHoose



*Via electronic mail*  
Mr. John Kraft  
Edgar County Watchdogs



## Dunham, Lorraine

---

**From:** Brad b [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 7, 2024 10:16 AM  
**To:** Public Access  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Open Meetings Violation Caseyville

I am reporting an open meetings violation in the Village of Caseyville. On 3 July 2024, the Caseyville Village Board went into an illegal executive session to allegedly discuss some serious concerns about his own legal invoices. If indeed the case, that is not a sufficient reason to go into an executive session. There was no reason to keep this dispute about Mr. Stewarts excessive legal fees from the ublic except out of his own best interests. Attorney Stewart knew better and supposedly proceeded with the closed meting over the objections of board members.

I am asking the Public Access Counselor to determine if the law has been violated and take the appropriate remedies.

Bradley VanHoose  
Belleville, Illinois

**From:**   
**To:** [Lim, Teresa](#); [Public Access](#); [Sternecky, Jane](#)  
**Cc:** [Kirk Allen](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OMA Request for Review (Caseyville, Ill.) - 7-8-2024  
**Date:** Monday, July 8, 2024 5:25:08 PM

---

AG PAC,

Please consider this a request for review of allegations of Open Meetings Act violation(s).

**NAME OF PUBLIC BODY:** Caseyville, Ill.

**DATE OF ALLEGED OMA VIOLATIONS:** July 3, 2024

**ALLEGATIONS:**

**I am alleging the Caseyville Village Board has violated the Open Meetings Act by entering into closed (executive) session for the improper purpose of discussing bills or invoices during the July 3, 2024, meeting.**

I ask the PAC to determine this public body violated the Open Meetings Act **and direct them to release the audio/video recording of this closed session.**

**Electronic communications preferred.**

Thanks,  
John Kraft  
Edgar County Watchdogs

