

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

6:30 p.m. The regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Behnken. A roll call was answered by Trustees Newbold, Politsch, Feder and Geppert. Trustees Kearns and Fitzgerald were absent. Also present were Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

VISITORS

Gary Yates. Mr. Yates stated he was a fairly new resident to the village, and he decided to get involved and have a say in this village. Mayor welcomed Mr. Yates to the meeting.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the February 5, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

The minutes of the January 22, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor stated that the board needs to follow the process of approving the executive sessions minutes. There are 16 sets of minutes that need to be reviewed and approved. The decision was made to discuss minutes at the Committee of the Whole meetings, then approved at the regular Board meetings. A vote will be made on March 1, 2024, to approve said minutes.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Fauth presented the Balance Sheets from January 2023 and 2024, for comparison. Treasurer stated statement reconciliations went very smoothly this month. Statements are arriving late via USPS but reconciliations are being completed shortly thereafter, still in a timely fashion. Motion was made by Trustee Feder and seconded by Trustee Newbold to accept the treasurer's report. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler presented the activity logs for the first two weeks of February, 2024. He has received a resignation from Officer Storie, who has taken a full-time position with another department. The Chief is still waiting for the computers to be delivered so we can then take them north to be installed in the truck. The second vehicle has not arrived at the dealership yet.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick stated the Hudson Energy Electric contract is still in effect. The glitch was when we added the Marina to the account. He spoke with the head broker, and he sent Chris papers to sign so we are still in good standing with our contract until the expiration in 2026. The thirty water meters that were approved for

purchase, are on back order. The Public Works Department did manage to get the problem trees taken down on Spotsylvania. They no longer block the speed limit sign. Nelson was kind enough to show up and they trimmed down the trees significantly and left the last 8' for them to drop. They had it all cleaned up and it looks better. The Cemetery clean-up will be the week of March 18th, 2024. Chris contacted Total Eclipse to have some signs made and will place them throughout the appropriate areas. We will begin putting out information about clean up day as soon as we can. We can print the information on the back of the water bills, as well. It can also be put on the village website and Facebook announcements. Chris plans to discuss hiring summer mowing help at the next meeting, so that will be put on the agenda for March.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Nothing to report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Trustee Newbold questioned the transfer request for the settlement of the lawsuit. He asked why the monies from the Fidelity investments went into the Water & Sewer Fund prior to being transferred to the General Fund. Mayor stated it was simply a procedural move. Trustee Newbold made a motion to accept the transfer of funds to the appropriate accounts, seconded by Trustee Politsch. Trustee Feder asked if we had the entire amount of the lawsuit and Mayor responded yes. Following discussion, a vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

WATER AND SEWER

Chris reported that he has been keeping an eye on the amount of water we've been purchasing by reading the master meter, which is registering under 100,000 gallons in a 24 hour period, which is better than it has been. These are great numbers and that's good news. We have had some meters in the town which were not registering at all, but they are being replaced as they are found. These meters are being identified as the bills are generated.

PERSONNEL

No report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Someone approached Trustee Newbold about converting the hockey rink into a pickleball court. Chris stated that he and Trustee Politsch have discussed it, but it will take a lot of work to convert it.

CEMETERY

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to approve the contract with Country-Side Lawn Services at the same rate as was charged last year, for the 2024 mowing season, motion seconded by Trustee Feder. Roll call vote was taken, ayes were Trustees Geppert, Feder, Newbold and Politsch. Trustees Fitzgerald and Kearns were absent. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE

Mayor discussed the compensatory paid leave for salaried employees working in excess of regular time without compensation. The board suggested the Mayor write an ordinance in regards to this, since it was old business. The two previous provisions were discussed. Mayor agreed to put together a draft ordinance. They will review it at the Committee of the Whole meeting in March, then they will vote on the ordinance. All agreed to make this retroactive to January 2024.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Debby reported that the Ultra Site order is in and Chris will make arrangements to go pick up all the equipment. They have begun pouring the concrete at the pavilion.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA

No report.

MARINA

Chris reported the IDNR is not overly excited about the removal of the marina, it is mostly due to a particular resident pushing to get it cleaned up. The IDNR does want something done. Chris has a plan in mind to make it easier to keep pulling the marina when the water comes up. It is going to take some big equipment to get it dealt with. They are planning to remove the bad boat dock and leave the good boat slips. The campground is completely booked except for 2 tent sites for the upcoming solar eclipse. Debby presented financial information regarding income from Roverpass, which includes our net earnings. Discussion regarding raising the camping rates will take place at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Chris and Debby are talking about adding about 10 more tent sites that can be rented. Mr. Yates inquired if anyone has thought about bringing the drag boat races back to the area. Trustee Feder has been in discussion with the guy about bringing them back, but it will take a lot of money to put the races on. Lucas Oil is now who puts those on.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor presented the revised appropriations ordinance, to include the Marina lawsuit settlement. Trustee Feder made a motion to accept the revised annual appropriations ordinance, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A roll call vote was taken; those voting aye were Trustee Feder, Geppert, Newbold and Politsch. Trustees Kearns and Fitzgerald were absent. Motion carried.

Mayor presented the Contract Change Order resolution. A motion was made by Trustee Feder to accept the Contract Change Order, Trustee Politsch seconded. Roll call vote was taken; those voting aye were Trustees Feder, Geppert, Newbold and Politsch. Motion passes.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Feder requested to discuss the ambulance report at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:15 p.m. by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, President

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector