

April 1, 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, Geppert and Fitzgerald. Trustees Kearns was absent. Also present were Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

VISITORS

No Visitors attended.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the March 18, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024, regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Motion was made by Trustee Feder to move the review of executive session meeting minutes to the end of the meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Politsch. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

VILLAGE CLERK

Paula thinks it would be timesaving to move to a direct deposit situation for all payroll checks. It can be done through Quickbooks. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to move to a mandatory direct deposit system. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler presented the activity log for March. Good news is the computers should be here in 1-2 days. They will then be sent to Springfield to load then they will be ready for installation. The new truck is at the dealership. The new black car is available, and the board recommended moving forward on it. Chief received another applicant that works with Kurt, who wants to work part-time. Following his background check, Chief will then request an interview for the applicant. He also has another part-time applicant who may be willing to go full-time if he likes the position. He is a certified part-time officer. He will have to go through the same process as above. If the applicant comes on as a part-time position, he can take a two-week transitional course to become full-time. We still need to register a seat at the police academy. The applicant who is interested in the police academy will retire from the military in April. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to move forward on securing a seat at the academy. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Chris reported that Gary Idecker returned to work today. Gary Yates has been hired to begin tomorrow as our part-time seasonal person. Chris shared the information in the letter from the doctor regarding the building that the home for the aged utilized. He reported that the sewer plant is looking better. Chris then described the signage they want to install down by the campground. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch and seconded by Trustee Newbold, to move forward with the purchase of said signage. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees

present. The tree at 404 N. Market is in sad shape. Chris obtained a quote of \$900 to remove the tree. After discussion, motion was made by Trustee Feder to table the discussion of the tree removal, so he could go look at the tree. Motion was seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all present.

AMBULANCE

Doug Kinzinger and their attorney, James Sinclair, are in discussion with MedStar and the Rural Med Services, to determine the future of the ambulance service. This includes the first quarter \$38,000 payment plus a prorated share of the second quarter's payment, so they are paid up through the closing date of the contract. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to terminate the ambulance contract with NAFD with a 60-day notice sent registered U.S. mail. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Geppert, Newbold, Politsch. Vote was answered nay by Trustees Feder and Fitzgerald. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Finance committee met and went through the bills. Everything was in order. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve bills as reviewed. A roll call vote was answered aye by all present. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the routine transfer requests. A vote was answered aye by all present.

WATER AND SEWER

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to terminate Tyler Liefer's contract with a ten-day notice and pay prorata to termination date. A vote was answered aye by all present.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Trustee Newbold met with Lindsey, Chris, and John regarding the issues with the ball diamonds. They are having drainage issues. There is a plan in place with John to work on it. Lindsey is going to send Chris a detailed narrative about what she needs. The bases are not suitable, and the fields need an upgrade. The concession stand is finished as far as the outlets are concerned. The overhead lights are still an issue and will be dealt with later. The batting cages are a concern as far as liability insurance. The cages are used by the teams but not open to the public. Mayor will inquire to RMA if needed to see if we need additional coverage.

CEMETERY

The cemetery has been mowed. The Public Works employees did a great job cleaning it up. Chris has removed the cemetery clean up signs and they will use those signs again for future clean up times.

ORDINANCE

The mayor has received correspondence from Civic Plus and a final draft of the ordinances will be sent to trustees soon.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Mayor shared the information regarding the Board Access Area Development Grant (IDNR). Illinois only received one million dollars for the grant. The likelihood of us receiving any of that grant is slim. He recommends we not pursue it. Trustee Feder made the motion to not continue with application for the grant, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all present. Trustee Politsch reported that work on the walking trail is supposed to begin 04/02/2024, weather permitting.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA

Trustee Politsch requested that Josh Dietz and Andrew Green do the inventory at the ambulance facility. She has not heard back from either of them.

MARINA

Chris reported that the newest camp sites are open at the point. A proposed 33% increase of campground rental rates, which would be \$40 per night, \$160 per week and \$600 per month for the prime location (on the point). Trustee Politsch made a motion to proceed with the new increase, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all present.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

7:20 p.m. Motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to go into executive session regarding approval of executive session minutes. A vote of aye was answered by all.

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:43 p.m.

Discussion regarding the release of certain executive session minutes. Motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the release of the executive session minutes, except for 01/16/2023. A roll call vote was answered aye by all present.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:45 p.m. by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, President

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector