

April 7, 2025

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

4.1

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

VISITORS

Richard Stoops, Mark Schreder, Matt Ridlen, Erin Wilson, Jamie Lintzenich and Jay Patel.

No comments were made from the visitors.

READING THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the March 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting was presented to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Jay Patel spoke to the Board regarding the property at 501 Spotsylvania St. He is going to have the building remodeled by Middendorf & Reuss. The project includes updating the car wash, the laundromat and adding a gaming area as well as a coffee shop. He projects the completion date to be at the end of June of this year.

The Village Clerk noted that this will be the last liquor license that allows consumption of alcohol on the property. She stated that no one can have a gaming license without a Class A or Class D liquor license therefore no more gaming businesses will be allowed.

Mayor Behnken discussed the purchase of 110 N. Van Buren St. from St. Clair County in the amount of \$768.00. It was discussed to have the building demolished.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to purchase 110 N. Van Buren St. from St. Clair County in the amount of \$768.00. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Trustee Feder, who abstained from voting.

The mayor discussed joining a collation to change the Municipal Utility Tax calculations from net supplied to gross used. He stated that the initial cost would be \$250.00.

It was recommended to table this vote and discuss it further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28th.

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A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to table the vote to join a collation to change the Municipal Utility Tax calculations from net supplied to gross used and discuss further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28, 2025. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Mayor Behnken noted that a resident was wanting to put a mobile home at 601 S. Elizabeth St. There was a brief discussion regarding the difference between a mobile home and a manufactured home. Trustee Newbold stated that the proposed home will come in on wheels, but they will be taken off and the home will be placed on a permanent foundation. Trustee Kearns noted that it will still be considered a mobile home because of the metal framing. It was noted that this needs to be discussed further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28th.

Chris Remick stated that he spoke with the village attorney regarding this matter, and he advised that this not be approved because it goes against the ordinance. Remick noted that if the Board approves the request, he will not sign the building permit.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to table the discussion and vote regarding a resident wanting to place a mobile home at 601 S. Elizabeth St. Further discussion is to be held at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28, 2025. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The mayor mentioned the water meter issue that was previously discussed. It was recommended to table this discussion and address it at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28th.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Kearns, to table the discussion regarding the water meter issue until the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28, 2025. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nancy mentioned that she has been working with IL EPay and L.O.C.I.S. regarding the autopay for the water bills and believes that we could have it up and going by the end of the month.

TREASURER'S TIME

The Treasurer was not present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log for March and for the first quarter of the year.

He noted that the D.A.R.E. graduation will be on April 16th at 1:00 p.m. and D.A.R.E. day at the St. Louis Cardinals baseball game will be on April 27th.

Buehler said that Officer Ottens completed the Juvenile Officer class.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Chris Remick noted that the river had come up, with all the rain we had. He had all the campers moved out.

Remick stated that he met with someone from the National Weather Service to discuss the gauge on the south side of the bridge as it has malfunctioned. He noted that he was given a key to the box so he could read it manually.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Newbold noted that the Public Works Department did a good job with cleaning out ditches. It seems to have been effective with the latest weather.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The monthly bills were presented to the Audit Committee for review and approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the monthly bills as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

Chris Remick noted that a sewer main collapsed on Chester St. and needs immediate attention. He spoke with Midwest Excavating and they can do the full job for \$4,000.00. The only thing that the Village would have to do is the backfill.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the sewer line repair by Midwest Excavating in the amount of \$4,000.00. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

There was a discussion regarding the auto read gun for reading water meters. Chris noted that it will not hold a charge anymore. He said we could either buy a new battery or buy a new device. The current device is about five or six years old. He received a quote from Core and Main for a new one in the amount of \$2,365.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearns, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to purchase the auto read device for water meter readings from Core and Main in the amount of \$2,365.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Countryside Lawn Services put in a bid to provide grass mowing and other services at both cemeteries. The bid is for \$715.66 per mowing.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the grass mowing bid for both cemeteries from Countryside Lawn Services in the amount of \$715.66 per mowing. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch noted that the Tree City USA application has been approved for 2024, and we will be working on the 2025 application next.

Politsch stated that the T-Mobile grant was submitted on March 28th.

The verbiage on the road sign for the school has been submitted.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

A resolution was prepared regarding the employees' wages. The new wages will take effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-16**, regarding the employees' wages to take effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

A resolution was prepared regarding the annual MFT budget.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-17**, regarding the MFT budget. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Geppert inquired about the status of the Mill St. property that the Village purchased. Mayor Behnken stated that we are waiting on the deed showing the Village as the owners.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Village Clerk