

April 15, 2024

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

4.1

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, Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer, Sgt. Jacob Renner and Doug Kinzinger, Fire Department President.

VISITORS

Two visitors from Liberty National arrived late, Jeremy and Wyatt.

Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to move 5.6.1 to after visitors' comments and move 5.1.1 following that. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Chief Buehler presented Sgt. Jacob Renner with an outstanding traffic investigation certificate. On April 2, 2024, he conducted a traffic stop while on duty. During the traffic stop, he observed open alcohol containers, smelled the odor of burning cannabis and could see methamphetamine in plain view. He searched the suspect and removed numerous items of drug paraphernalia, as well as 7.8 grams of meth and some fentanyl. Suspect was remanded in custody. He will be seeking felony charges against the suspect. Sgt Renner's continuous proactive patrol methods has resulted in removing multiple dangerous drugs from the community, resulting in a safer environment for our residents.

AMBULANCE

The Fire Department had their meeting last Wednesday. Doug learned Friday more misunderstandings were discovered. He wanted to clarify that the fire district has NO interest in the ambulance, and they are going to work with the village the best they can to adhere to the contract. The Mayor gave him the impression that MedStar was interested in taking over the service. He went home and read the contract and it states that if they can find someone to take over the service, they could assign the contact over to them. He met with the Mayor and MedStar and they are willing to assign it. Fire District does not want to take it over. They are not interested in the value of the Ambulance Service. MedStar thinks they can come up with a staffing and management plan but they want to know if the ambulances and shed are available. We need to get moving forward on this. He is asking the village to reconsider closing it on June 2, since the village isn't moving forward quickly. The proper protocol is for the contact to be assigned to MedStar, they will turn in their maps and plans, get it approved through Illinois Department of Public Health, and then the village will be done with it. Doug does not think we can get this done by the closing date of June 2. Trustee Feder questioned the date and Doug responded as soon as we get that assignment signed, we could be done with it in a matter of a few days. He would like to see us all work as quickly as possible and not set an actual date. Trustee Newbold questioned what exactly do they need from us because we keep receiving conflicting information. Doug said MedStar would be willing to take it over this year, they would like to shoot for May to sit down and get this materialized by then. Dawn Elliott told Doug the day she received the signed paperwork, she'll sign it and get it moved along, only taking a couple of days. Further discussion included the village coming up with an agreement for MedStar, as to not interfere with coverage. Doug stated if we need to all get together for another special meeting, that can be done. Discussion continued about possible ambulance district and how it could affect the fire district and the tax referendum. Trustee Feder suggested that this be discussed in executive session at the end of tonight's meeting.

Mayor allowed the tardy visitors to speak. They were trying to sell Global Life insurance coverage.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the April 1, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval. Trustee Newbold requested corrections to be made to minutes, under current unfinished business, motion to approve the release of the executive session minutes. He stated he thought he voted no, as well as Trustee Geppert. Paula agreed to go back and review recording and handwritten minutes. Motion made by Trustee Fitzgerald to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from the March 25, 2024, as presented. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

No one showed up for the Assisted Living and Health Service Facility proposal. Harriss' Hideout has requested extended hours, from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. for one night, May 3, 2024. She has a musician coming in and indicates she only has one credit card machine to check customers out. Nothing will be served/sold after 2 a.m. Discussion included past circumstances where businesses have requested the same and legalities and ordinances regarding such. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to allow Harriss' Hideout to remain open until 3 a.m., only on May 3, 2024. NO additional alcohol should be sold or served during that hour, it is only for checking customers out. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Mayor delivered the news that Volkert has raised their fees. They've submitted a contract. The last time they raised their fees it was in 2021. They have fees for everything in about 50 different categories. Some of them have gone up 10%. The projects that we currently have under contract would not be affected by this agreement because they are under contract, are Spotsylvania and Market Street storm sewer project. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to accept the contract. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy presented everyone with balance sheet from last year. The printer is not working so he emailed the newest to everyone. We are down \$500,000 from last year. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch to accept the treasurer's report. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief reported he received the computers two days after the last meeting. The docking stations won't be here till May. He presented the activity log for the month. The black car is the same price as the white one.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold to bring the item off the table for the tree removal at 404 N. Market. American Tree gave Chris the quote of \$900. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to approve said tree removal, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Chris explained about the meeting with the engineers from Volkert to discuss the street project. There were two proposals, one being rerouting the storm sewer all the way around the block instead of trying to reline underneath where it is now, because it is falling apart and collapsing. Chris is still working on MFT expenditures and will have it available for the next board meeting. Gary Yates has indicated to Chris that he may not continue with the seasonal mowing job, as it is too much for him. Chris will have to hire another part time person.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Nothing to report.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Trustee Politsch to hire Ryan Warner as a part time police officer, seconded by Trustee Feder. Discussion as to whether to offer him a full-time position. It will be placed on the agenda for the first meeting in May. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

The t-ball diamond has been worked on.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

They didn't put state citations in the draft so they are putting them in for the final. We have till the end of the month for any further revisions.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

We have been recognized for Arbor Day. Saturday is plant a tree day where the one was cut down. They will distribute seedlings. There was no other place to put lights on the village sign, due to no electrical availability. Discussion if solar would be another option.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Nothing to report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Motion was made to approve the resolution for IDOT Funding Contract for Spotsylvania Resurfacing Project by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder. Discussion of IDOT and the combination of federal and local funding agreement. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting aye were Trustees Geppert, Newbold, Politsch, Fitzgerald and Feder. The attestation will be signed by the Village Clerk.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee Feder to enter into executive session at 7:39 p.m., seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to return to regular session. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Time was 7:59 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 8:00 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