

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 aye by Trustees Newbold, Politsch, Fitzgerald, Feder, Kearns and Geppert. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police and Patrolman Jason Berry.

VISITORS

No visitors were present.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the September 16, 2024 regular board meeting was submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2024 regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the September 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting was submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken suggested increasing the current sales tax by $\frac{1}{4}$ percent. He said it would generate \$56,736 more in our share of sales tax and would help to offset the increase of the employee's health insurance premium. He noted that you can only do this twice a year. He said October is the last time this year to do it and the deadline for the next time would be April 1, 2025. It would be effective July 1, 2025.

Trustee Fitzgerald inquired if it could be raised $\frac{1}{2}$ percent. It was noted that it could and that would be better. The Board could vote on the increase tonight and, if accepted, an ordinance would be put together to vote on at the November 4th regular meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the increase in the sales tax rate by $\frac{1}{2}$ percent to help offset the cost of the employee health insurance premium. A vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Trustee Feder, who voted nay.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nancy gave an update on the status of the IL E-pay. She noted that Georgia with IL E-pay has been out of town and will reach out to her this Friday to see what they can get done.

TREASURER'S TIME

The Treasurer submitted the September Treasurer's Report to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the September Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log for the first half of October.

The Chief noted that Officer Berry completed the Juvenile Training. Officer Powell will take the class next.

Sgt. Renner made a traffic stop that resulted in a firearm being seized due to no FOID card. He has applied for a felony warrant. On a different date Renner made a traffic stop where methamphetamine was found in the vehicle.

Buehler briefly discussed a taser grant where the first year is paid in full. He noted that he would like to discuss it further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on October 28th.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick noted that the Spotsylvania St. project is coming along. They are hoping to start milling next week.

Remick contacted the State regarding the waterline request from Todd and Becky Davis for their property across the highway. The State told him that the owners of the property could not get the permit from the State, but the Village could. Remick said the cost to do this was not discussed but he will get more information before the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Trustee Newbold asked when the leaf vacuuming would start and Remick said he has not set a date yet but needs to get other things done first. The mayor reminded him about the Christmas decorations.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Fitzgerald stated that New Beginnings Daycare is requesting to be allowed to close the three hundred block of S. Market St. for a trunk or treat on Friday, October 25th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to allow New Beginnings Daycare to close the three hundred block of S. Market St. on Friday, October 25th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for trunk or treat. A vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Fitzgerald, who abstained from voting.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Nothing to report.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Trustee Geppert and Mayor Behnken met with Shane Watson who wanted to look at the doctor's office in the medical center. He is interested in posting a practical nurse in the office. There was a question as to how this would affect the mobile health unit that sits in the medical center parking lot. Geppert stated that Watson said he would work with them. She noted that he must get permission from the State as they may not allow them to share the waiting area with the Dentist and Chiropractor. Geppert stated that she would keep everyone posted as more information becomes available.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Mayor Behnken noted that the new ordinance book documents will be posted on the Village's website soon.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch discussed the park grant. The original ideas brought us over budget. Trustee Feder said to just do one ball diamond instead of two. There was some discussion regarding an upgrade to the lights. Remick said he could check with Jeff Tucker to get a price on LED lights.

Feder suggested they continue the discussion at the next Committee of the Whole meeting and vote on recommendations at the first regular meeting in November.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Remick said they are still cleaning up at the marina. He stated that he was contacted by someone who is interested in buying the docks.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Behnken presented the Board with RESOLUTION 2024-12, authorizing the public works clothing allowance to become a taxable allowance per IMRF. He noted that during an IMRF compliance review, it was found that IMRF funds were taken out of the public work's clothing allowance earnings, and we do not have a resolution on file with them stating that we allow this. Once the resolution has been passed, we will be in compliance.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-12**, allowing clothing allowances to become taxable allowances as IMRF earnings. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk