

7:30 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 Wilson, Geppert, Feder, Newbold, and Politsch. Trustee Hamon absent. Also present were Leo Simburger, Chief of Police and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

VISITORS

None.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the previous board meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the board minutes as corrected. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

The Mayor asked the board to consider obtaining a labor law consult from Kevin Kubitschek concerning the Ambulance Service. EMT Josh Dietz stated that on call ambulance staff are not considered on duty while on call, making them exempt from overtime pay. Trustee Newbold stated that our requirement is that they respond within four minutes, not that they remain on site during an on-call period. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert to obtain the labor law consult. A vote was answered aye by Trustees Politsch and Geppert, while Trustees Newbold, Feder and Wilson replied nay. The motion did not pass.

The Mayor presented an Ambulance Service Financial Plan to the board. By doubling the utility tax from 2.5% to 5% and adding a 5% tax on water, between \$75,000.00 and \$80,000.00 in revenue would be generated annually. Assuming continuous ambulance personnel coverage every day, at the end of a four year period, we would have the same reserves as we have now. The reserves would be available to purchase equipment.

The other two options for the Ambulance Service were bankruptcy or additional funding from the New Athens Fire District. Trustee Politsch has a meeting scheduled for March 10, 2022 to discuss the matter with the Fire District. She will share the Ambulance Service Financial Plan with them.

Mayor Behnken discussed listing surplus items on govdeals.com. Superintendent Remick was able to sell a mower for twice the amount a dealership had offered. The general public is able to purchase surplus goods from municipalities on the site.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Benwell reported that the University of Illinois will be conducting their energy audit in late March or early April. IPRF conducted a payroll audit on 03/03/2022.

The visit went well and a report is anticipated within six weeks.

TREASURER'S TIME

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Officer Kraus's last day will be on or around April 4, 2022. He has accepted a position with Mascoutah.

Officer Renner conducted a traffic stop at Dollar General. Officer Renner deployed his taser. Backup was called to the scene. The suspect was detained and charges are pending.

Chief Simburger indicated that a contract between New Athens and Lenzburg is being prepared to outline the intergovernmental agreement to offer police protection to Lenzburg. New Athens will charge \$55,000.00 annually to have an officer respond to calls 24/7 and handle any investigations. Ordinance violations will not be dealt with. Chief Simburger will also be requesting the two squad cars from Lenzburg as part of the contract. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve entering into a contract with Lenzburg. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick requested permission to attend Wastewater Short School at the DRTC Building in Edwardsville for \$575.00. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Wilson to approve the class. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present. Mayor Behnken reported that Director Green has had an influx of applicants. Trustee Politsch will follow up with Andrew and Josh to obtain the number of applicant responses and report back to the board.

Trustee Geppert installed the new curtains at the Ambulance Shed.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Geppert and Superintendent Remick submitted the sidewalk list to Mark, who indicated that four to five blocks would be done. ADA law states that sidewalks must be four feet wide.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The monthly bills were reviewed by the Audit Committee prior to the regular board

meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Wilson to approve payment of the bills as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

Superintended Remick utilized the new pump and trailer during the recent heavy rains. He reported that the equipment performed very well, was much easier to operate, and more fuel efficient.

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

There is a Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 10 at 6pm to discuss the Ambulance Service with the New Athens Fire District. A meeting to discuss the Police Department will be made.

Trustee Politsch shared copies of the Nuisance Property Ordinance 25-5-1. Residents have reported being upset that the ordinance is not being enforced.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Trustee Politsch met with interested parties to discuss the next steps in Marina development. A meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2022 at 6pm.

CEMETERY

Steve Kinzinger signed the contract for mowing the cemetery.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

The new website mockup is ready for approval. The core layout and color scheme are finalized. Content migration is the next step.

Trustee Politsch shared the Community Care: Free Tree Program with the board. They were not prepared to choose a specific location for trees at this time.

Concerning the status of the DCEO ReBuild IL Spotsylvania Grant, Trustee Politsch called Representative Friess's office for an update. She will look into obtaining portal access.

ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Covid clinics will be deferred for now. Pfizer suspended doses for five year olds. The CDC has changed their stance for now.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Property

Marina

Chief Leo sent the contract to the boat owner as well as an invoice for the first month's rent at the Marina.

Streets & Alleys

Sewer Cleanout Project- Eight blocks completed as of 10/04/21. Eighteen blocks completed as of 11/01/21. Twenty-three blocks completed as of 01/03/2022. Twenty-four blocks completed as of 02/07/22.

Quote on water line collapse 108 North Market. \$65k estimate- not covered by insurance. John Feder will research repairing the line in-house using a remote model car. Springfield Plastics came, will be getting a price back to John.

Other

John and Steve met with the owner of the laundromat, Jim 01/13/22; they are scheduling a second meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President