

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, Feder, Newbold, Politsch, and Kearns. Also present were Leo Simburger, Chief of Police, Sandy Stolte, Treasurer and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works. Trustee Geppert was absent.

**VISITORS**

Mark Schreder, Jeff Wetzel, Kyle Wetzel, Brad Penet, and Tim Buehler were present for observation. Tom Klopmeyer was in attendance to address the board about a drainage issue on his property. Gene Triefenbach was present to discuss a walking trail to the River King Mine area. Mayor of Lenzburg, Dustin Politsch, was present to discuss the pending contract with the Village of New Athens for police protection.

**MOTION TO REORDER THE AGENDA**

Mayor Behnken requested a motion to alter the agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder to move Item 5.4.1: Dustin Politsch, Mayor of Lenzburg, Item 8.2: Resolution No. 2021-18 Contract to Provide Police Protection to the Village of Lenzburg, and Item 6.4.1: Appointment of Brad Penet to full-time officer, nights, to after Item 3: Visitors and Public Comment. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**MAYOR OF LENZBURG, DUSTIN POLITSCH**

Mayor Politsch was in attendance to address his gratitude for the consideration of providing police protection to the Village of Lenzburg. He conveyed that as a very small village, Lenzburg is unable to provide police to their residents. They are at the point where the county police will phone Mayor Politsch concerning calls. He stated that he was hopeful of an ambulance contract in the future.

**READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

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

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the April 04, 2022 board minutes as corrected. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the April 11, 2022 board minutes as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**MOTION TO REORDER THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold to move Item 8.2: Resolution No. 2021-18 Contract to Provide Police Protection to the Village of Lenzburg, and Item 6.4.1: Appointment of Brad Penet to full-time officer, nights, to after item 8: Presentation of communications, petitions, resolutions, orders, and ordinances by the board of trustees. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

### **MAYOR**

The Mayor discussed the homecoming float project with the board. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve float participation and associated costs. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

### **VILLAGE CLERK**

Village Clerk Benwell reported that the new village website is live. She stated that she is incredibly pleased with the interface and learning how to utilize its many features. The Energy Audit through the University of Illinois is scheduled to take place May 03, 2022 at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Clerk Benwell also furnished the board with an updated spreadsheet of current building permits. A request for a sewer credit for resident Robert Frantz was presented to the board. Mr. Frantz experienced a water leak and petitioned for a sewer credit for water that did not flow into the sewer system. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch to grant the credit in the amount of \$56.70. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

### **TREASURER'S TIME**

Mayor Behnken furnished the board with the Treasurer's Report for March 2022 and Fiscal Year to Date prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve the Treasurer's Report. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

### **POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Simburger discussed the pending contract to provide police protection to the Village of Lenzburg. The contract would make the New Athens Police Department viable for years to come. Chief Simburger pointed out that the trend in small town policing is that we cannot compete with larger towns. He also stated that year to date our department has been called out forty-two times on assist police agency calls; last year there were one hundred seventy-five police assist calls. Chief Simburger also stated that should we become a part-time department, county police will not come to New Athens to respond.

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Superintendent Remick discussed the hiring of part-time, seasonal help. He requested permission to purchase a replacement panel for the electric grid at the marina from Gilbert Electric for \$5625.00. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, Seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the purchase. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Superintendent Remick reported that he would prefer trash and recycling collection be moved from alleys to streets. The alleys have suffered the consequences of heavy trucks using them for the refuse route. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Kearns to approve moving the collection site at residences to the street. A

vote was answered aye by all members present. Superintendent Remick reported that his on-site training with Parkson at the Waste Water Treatment Plant went well. He learned a lot and they were able to identify an area for energy savings.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Director Green was not present.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

Nothing to report.

**WATER AND SEWER**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

Trustee Feder reported that he had reached out to an appraiser from Volkert concerning obtaining an updated appraisal of the medical building. It was indicated that the appraisal would cost a minimum of \$1500.00 and would not be worthwhile at this time for petitioning property taxes.

Trustee Newbold requested the Public Works Department consider working on the Little League baseball diamonds. He reported that the dirt has become rather hard and would benefit from maintenance.

**CEMETERY**

Trustee Newbold reported that lawn maintenance had commenced at the cemetery and both cemeteries looked nice on Easter.

**ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Trustee Politsch presented the Tree City USA Proclamation. Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to authorize Mayor Behnken to sign the proclamation. The Arbor Day event will take place on April 30, 2022 at the marina campgrounds. Trustee Politsch reported that she emailed Bost's office and unfortunately the earmark for the 2021 Infrastructure Grant did not make it into the final bill.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE, AND ADA**

The Ambulance Service has received one application. The committee will make a recommendation for hire at the next scheduled board meeting.

**MARINA**

Mayor Behnken provided a handout to the board outlining the Marina Development Process Request for Information, Proposal, and Quotation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:32 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Wilson to enter executive session to discuss the contract to provide police protection to Lenzburg and the hiring of Officer Brad Penet for full-time nights. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

At 8:52 p.m. Trustee Feder made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Trustee Wilson. A vote was answered aye by all members present. At 8:53 p.m. the board of trustees entered regular session.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES**

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve Resolution No. 2021-18: Contract to Provide Police Protection to the Village of Lenzburg. A vote of aye was not met by any responses. Mayor Behnken called for all those opposed to respond with the same sign, which was answered aye by all members present. The motion did not carry.

**PERSONELL**

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve hiring Officer Brad Penet for full-time nights. A vote of aye was not met by any responses. Mayor Behnken called for all those opposed to respond with the same sign, which was answered aye by all members present. The motion did not carry.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Public Property**

**Marina**

Chief Simburger sent the contract to the boat owner as well as an invoice for the first month's rent at the Marina. Chief Simburger reported the owner had received both documents and the signed rent agreement and first month's rent payment were "in the mail."

**APRIL 18, 2022**

**VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS**

**Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk  
Joe Behnken, Village President