

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, Politsch, and Kearns. Also present were Leo Simburger, Chief of Police, Sandy Stolte, Treasurer, and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

VISITORS

Dr. Kevin Schmidt was present to introduce himself as the republican candidate for the upcoming State Representative election. Todd Fritsche, Rich Klein, Jeremy Dietzel, Jacob Swiney, Charlotte Main, Deb Scherle, Barb Poston, Diane Weilmuenster, Marian Hein, Ron Hampton, William Ridlen, Mark Schreder, and Judy Jansen were also present to discuss the change in trash collection as well as the state of the cemetery. Multiple visitors voiced their concern over the change in policy, moving trash and recycling collection from the alleys to the streets. The board discussed the reasoning behind the updated policy, citing the damage the refuse trucks have caused to the alleys and culverts. Many visitors also expressed concern for the length of the grass at the cemetery. The board discussed the situation and will follow up with the contractor.

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 May 02, 2022 board minutes as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken presented a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The preliminary budget will be used for the appropriations ordinance to be published July 01, 2022, with a hearing tentatively scheduled on July 10, 2022, and a vote at the second July board meeting. The next 30-45 days, the board will receive one or two revised budgets. Required in the statute is also the amount of liabilities and aggregate amount of income from the previous year. While municipal code does not require a vote on a preliminary budget, Mayor Behnken invited the board to do so. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The Mayor presented the Financial Report for April 2022 and Fiscal Year End 04/30/2022. There was a surplus of \$170,641.00 for the end of the fiscal year. Major factors in the surplus were the ARPA grant in the amount of \$128,058.00 and the Marina lawsuit settlement of \$56,463.00. There was an operating deficit of \$13,000.00. The ambulance service continues to run a deficit. Mayor Behnken stated that since our revenue is fixed, there will be challenges.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S TIME

Mayor Behnken presented the Treasurer's Report during the Mayor's portion of the board meeting.

POLICE CHIEF

Nothing to report.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick presented the board with a request to remove a tree from a residence at 104 N. Johnson for \$450.00. A motion was made by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the tree removal for \$450.00. A vote was answered aye by Trustees Wilson and Geppert, while Trustees Newbold, Feder, Kearns, and Politsch replied nay. The motion failed to pass.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Kearns to pay for half of the cost of the tree removal at 104 N. Johnson, following the ordinance, plus half of the cost of the stump removal. A vote was answered aye by all members present. It was noted that if the resident wished to trim the tree, the cost would be solely incurred by the resident, following the ordinance.

Superintendent Remick distributed a copy of Ordinance No. 32-3-5, addressing maintenance of storm drainage facilities on private property, to the board prior to the meeting for their review.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present. Trustee Geppert reported that oil changes were completed the previous week on the ambulances. Trustee Politsch reported that members of the ambulance service went to the high school to generate interest in a career with the service. One scholarship recipient has started the process of enrollment.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Kearns reported that many of the alleys are in disrepair and littered with garbage, debris, and residential property. He would like ordinances to be enforced. Chief Simburger will follow up with Lt. Buehler for nuisance citations.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Trustee Kearns requested that Resolution No. 2022-02 Authorizing the Mayor to Invest in Obligations of the United States and other Investments Insured by the Federal

Deposit Insurance Corporation and Resolution No. 2022-03 Authorizing Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC as Investment Broker be tabled for a committee meeting (committee of the whole) at a later date. After discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Kearns, seconded by Trustee Politsch to table the discussion to a committee of the whole meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

Superintendent Remick reported that Visu Sewer has finished. The south lift station has a problem with a motor contactor.

PERSONNEL

The Delta Dental policy renewal was presented to the board. There are no increases to the employee paid premium this year. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the renewal of the Delta Dental plan. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch reported that there are no recent updates on the DCEO Sidewalk grant.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE & ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Trustee Newbold and Clerk Benwell published the RFI/P advertisement in the Freeburg Tribune. Clerk Benwell will publish the expanded advertisement on the website.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

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. The owner has not returned the contract and is not paying rent. Chief Simburger spoke to the owner, who indicated through sale of real estate, he will now have the funding to move the boat and pay back owed rent.

The electrical outlet and structure renovation is two-thirds completed at the Marina. An electrician has been contracted. A ladder has been added and Ameren granted preliminary approval.

Trustee Newbold and Clerk Benwell advertised for RFI/P for Marina Development. The next step will be to invite qualified applicants to quote on the business.

Streets & Alleys

Sewer Cleanout Project- Eight blocks completed as of 10/04/21. Eighteen blocks completed as of 11/01/2021. Twenty-three blocks completed as of 01/03/2022. Twenty-four blocks completed as of 02/07/2022. Twenty-six blocks completed as of 03/21/2022. Visu Sewer is working on the lining project.

Trustee Feder purchased the pipe needed to repair the water line collapse at 108 North Market. He will attempt to install it.

PUBLIC PROPERTY & PARKS

Matt Heet, a local drainage contractor, has offered to install a complete drainage system, when the soccer season is over, at Okaw Valley Park.

OTHER

Consider increasing video game terminals in June 2022. Smithton is considering increasing to \$125.00 per terminal.

Trustee Feder and Superintendent Remick will verify the contour of the terrain for the Klopmeyer drainage complaint.

MAY 16, 2022

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President