

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

VISITORS

Mark Schreder was present for observation. Dawn Heimann addressed the board regarding the “Justice for Kenzie” signs being removed around town. After discussing, the board granted permission for signs to be posted, provided they were comparable in size and followed the guidelines provided. Judy Robertson was present for observation.

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 Feder, to approve the July 05, 2022, board minutes with correction. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken presented fiscal year budget items to the board as part of a long-range plan. During fiscal year 2023-2024, a mini excavator will need to be purchased for the public works department for \$70,000.00-\$80,000.00. Superintendent Remick reported that the backhoe is getting worn and digging graves has become difficult due to the cemetery becoming full. A new backhoe would cost around \$100,000.00. It would be more cost effective to keep the current backhoe and use a new mini excavator for many of the jobs in the village. During fiscal year 2024-2025, one new police car will need to be purchased for \$45,000.00. The following fiscal year, 2025-2026, two new police cars will need to be purchased for \$45,000.00 each.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Benwell reported that she, along with Trustee Politsch, had a webinar with FirsTech to discuss online utility payment options. FirsTech would provide a portal, linked from the village website, to accept credit, debit, checking and savings account payments from residents. A small fee would be charged per transaction. Clerk Benwell and Trustee Politsch plan to have a meeting with another company, Payment Service Network, to compare packages and fees and will report back to the board.

TREASURER’S TIME

Mayor Behnken reported a net surplus of \$47,000.00 year to date. The village had a \$76,000.00 favorable budget exclusively due to a loan payment that was budgeted for June but paid in July. Favorable variance income was due to increases in revenue sharing from the state. Inflation has created an increase in sales tax revenue. The ambulance fund was positive. Deputy Clerk Ritter supplied Mayor Behnken with figures

projecting the impact of the nursing home closing on ambulance revenue. Nursing home calls accounted for 19-21% of total runs for 2021-2022 year to date.

The Mayor stated concerns over wholesale water cost compared to the revenue from water sales. He was concerned that there was a rate increase the village was not aware of or a water leak. Clerk Benwell will verify rates with KWD and Superintendent Remick will follow up on the potential leak.

Trustee Feder inquired on the status of the Treasury Bill investment. Mayor Behnken stated that he had to update the application once and anticipated approval around July 19, 2022. The next steps will be to initiate bank transfers and assemble the investment ladder.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch to accept the June 2022 and Year to Date Treasurer's Report. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger reported that Homecoming went well. Three people were banned Friday evening. Saturday there was a minor incident. The vest for Lydia arrived. Chief Simburger applied for a Department of Justice Grant to cover approximately \$425.00 of the \$1,000.00 vest expense. Officer Terry Hamon is interested in joining the police department part-time. Trustee Politsch will look into interview requirements.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick requested permission to hire two flaggers for the oil and chip project August 10, 2022. The board granted permission. Superintendent Remick reported that the IL EPA is requiring a Mussel Survey of the Kaskaskia River be completed. He will begin the process of finding a company to complete the survey.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present. It was mentioned that the ambulance service at the Homecoming was superior. Gratitude was given to Abbott for having a paramedic on site as well.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Finance and Audit Committee reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Permit previously discussed was verified to be inaccurate. The permit required currently by the EPA for the village handling of sludge is \$2500.00, not \$5,000.00 as previously invoiced.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee recommended Keith Culli for hire as an EMT. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder, to hire Keith Culli as an EMT effective July 19, 2022. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

The contracts for the chiropractor and dentist were up for renewal in June. Trustee Newbold will schedule a committee meeting to discuss.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold indicated that he had checked on the cemetery and it looked nice. Signs have arrived reminding residents to clean up after their pets and maintain cemetery decorations. Superintendent Remick will install the signs soon. Mayor Behnken would like to look at burial rates in the near future as they have not increased recently.

ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch participated in a webinar with Herb Simmons and Bryan Whitaker from St. Clair County EMS July 06, 2022 regarding a new outdoor warning system through the county. St. Clair County is hoping to obtain a grant to cover the cost of the new system countywide, but maintenance costs may not be covered.

Trustee Politsch reported that Tree City USA will be sending a draft ordinance as well as comprehensive planning information.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE & ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Ameren approved the marina project. Jeff Tucker will be working on the electrical components in the coming weeks.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2022-03: An Ordinance Amending Chapter I, Article III, Section 46 of the Revised Code of Ordinances: Deposit of Funds was presented. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve Ordinance No. 2022-03. A

vote was answered aye by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina

There is currently no power at the Marina. Ameren granted approval. Jeff Tucker will be working on the project in the coming weeks. One boat remains at the boat slips. The owner is paying rent.

Streets & Alleys

Superintendent Remick will follow up with Dan Stevens of N. East Street over the drainage complaint.

Water & Sewer

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. Thirty-one blocks completed as of 05/16/22.

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

Implementation of Illinois Sustainable Technology Center recommendations for energy savings was discussed. Clerk Benwell and Superintendent Remick will continue with the project, contracting out when necessary for the efficiency upgrades. Trustee Politsch will work on grant opportunities in the fall.

OTHER

Trustee Feder and Trustee Kearns, along with Superintendent Remick plan to verify the contour of the terrain at the Klopmeier residence to address the drainage complaint.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President