

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

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 Geppert, to approve the August 15, 2022, board minutes. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken informed the board that \$10,000.00 per year will need to be added to the long-term budget starting fiscal year 2024/2025 to cover the cost of police body cameras. The cameras will be required by the state of Illinois.

VILLAGE CLERK

Resident Terry Hamon requested a sewer credit as one of his children left a garden hose on, resulting in a usage of 41,000 gallons. The water did not enter the village sewer system. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve a sewer credit in the amount of \$214.20. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

TREASURER'S TIME

Mayor Behnken reported that he is working on quarterly financial reports. The first meeting in September he will present the month of July and first quarter financial reports to the board.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger reported that the state of Illinois will require body cameras for the police force by January 1, 2025. Lydia Simburger graduated from the police academy on August 05, 2022. Her first shift was August 14, 2022. Chief Simburger reported that she is doing well.

A request was made by Chief Simburger to purchase extended warranties on the police radios. One to five year plans are available. A discounted purchase price for radios may be available in the future through St. Clair County. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to purchase a one-year Motorola warranty plan for \$600.48, with the intent to explore purchasing new equipment once the warranty has expired. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick reported that the oil and chip project was a success. The lift station at Okaw Valley Park had one pump locked up and another pump out of commission. The restrooms at the park had to be temporarily closed. Superintendent Remick informed the board that the water leak on South East Street was repaired. St. Agatha's Church communicated to Superintendent Remick that the damage to the sidewalk created by use of a lift will be repaired in the Spring after the roof has been power washed.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present. Trustee Wilson observed one of the flue pipes on the ambulance shed has rusted. Trustee Geppert reported that she observed water on the floor. Superintendent Remick will investigate the situation. Trustee Geppert thanked Superintendent Remick for repairing the ambulance door.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Kearns spoke with Huebner Concrete. They plan to begin the sidewalk project the second or third week in September. Trustee Kearns reported that during the sealing project, a piece of asphalt was dislodged and sealed over. Superintendent Remick was aware of the issue and plans to cut out the defect and repair the section of road.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Finance and Audit Committee had nothing to report. Mayor Behnken stated that the auditors would have auditing statements prepared soon. The board will have a minimum of one week to review the drafts prior to the presentation at the board meeting. As soon as Mayor Behnken receives the statements, he will forward the information to the board.

WATER AND SEWER

St. Agatha's church plans to power wash their roof in late fall or early spring. They requested a sewer usage credit for the project. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Kearns to approve the sewer credit. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PERSONNEL

The board discussed the addition of one full time public works employee. Mayor Behnken stated that more human resources are needed to complete projects. Trustee Politsch will schedule a Personnel Committee meeting to further discuss.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

A committee meeting was held on August 3, 2022 to discuss the rental contracts at the medical building. Trustee Newbold reported that rent had not been increased since

2005. The village's expenses to maintain the medical building have gone up. New lease agreement addendums as well as rent increase letters were drafted and reviewed by the board. The documents will be mailed to tenants in the week following the board meeting, with an effective date of November 01, 2022. There will be an annual review process going forward.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold reported that the cemetery looks good and there were no recent complaints.

ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch reported that she was preparing to submit the St. Clair County Park Grant. A piece of playground equipment, rubber mulch, an enclosure, weed barrier and twelve benches are all part of the planned project totaling \$34,735.56. Trustee Politsch thanked Superintendent Remick for his assistance on the project.

Trustee Politsch spoke with Matt Heet concerning the drainage project at Okaw Valley Park. The two large diamonds in the middle will be worked on first, with a goal of completing the drainage system on all four diamonds.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE & ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Superintendent Remick reported that the electrician is finished at the marina. The village is waiting on Ameren to connect the electricity. The goal is to have ten campsites open by September 01, 2022.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Resolution No. 2022-05: Resolution for Applying to St. Clair County, IL for Funding Cycle 28 of the St. Clair County Parks Grant Commission was presented. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve Resolution No. 2022-05. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina

The remaining boat owner at the marina sent a letter stating he would not sign the contract for leasing a boat slip. Chief Simburger reported that the boat owner has a contract with a company to move the boat. Trustee Politsch suggested reaching out to

IDNR. Chief Simburger will follow up. Chief Simburger briefly reported on the boat accident on the Kaskaskia River. Two people were in the accident, one was air lifted by Arch.

Streets & Alleys

Superintendent Remick will be retrenching the ditch for Dan Stevens on North East Street to address drainage concerns.

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. Mayor Behnken is researching United States Department of Agriculture loan information in conjunction with grant information to consider opportunities to move forward with projects as the village faces a workforce shortage.

Other

Trustee Kearns will check the grade of the Klopmeier property and report back to Superintendent Remick.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Kearns, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President