

6:30 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, Geppert and Feder. Leo Simburger, Chief of Police, Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, and Sandy Stolte, Treasurer 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 October 17, 2022 board minutes. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the previous special board meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve the October 24, 2022 special board minutes. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Documentation for the renewal of the municipal insurance plan through Risk Management Association was furnished to the board for review prior to the meeting. Mayor Behnken stated that an excellent safety record has kept rates low. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve payment for the annual insurance coverage from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for \$99,560.86 to Risk Management Association. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The mayor presented a draft of the proposed tax levy to the board to review before the vote at the next board meeting.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Benwell reported that 218 Community Development Block Grant Income Surveys had been returned to St. Clair County. She will continue to update the board on the progress. Benwell thanked the board for allowing her to attend the Ameren Business Symposium. While in attendance, she was able to make acquaintance with several vendors from the energy sector as well as Ameren Small Business Advisors.

Clerk Benwell informed the board that the custom incentive application she submitted to Ameren was approved. Ameren will cover 42% of the cost to replace and upgrade the bioluminescent dissolved oxygens sensors for the sequencing batch reactor tanks at the wastewater treatment plant. She requested permission to move forward with ordering the sensors from A&D Electrical for \$10,200.00. Superintendent Remick summarized that the sensors regulate the blowers in the tanks. Without functioning sensors, the blowers run unchecked, consuming larger amounts of energy. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the purchase of LDO Sensors from A&D Electrical

for \$10,200.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

TREASURER'S TIME

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger reported 119 calls last month, which is average. Interviews are scheduled for part-time police officers on November 14, 2022.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Nothing to report.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present. Trustee Politsch reported that she had contacted Josh Dietz after the Personnel Committee meeting to discuss compensation. Josh Dietz stated that he does not wish to be paid for his administrative efforts but would prefer that money be reinvested into the ambulance service for training and development. Josh Dietz and Andrew Green will continue to act as co-directors. Mayor Behnken thanked Mr. Dietz for his service and positive attitude. Mayor Behnken and Clerk Benwell will create a budget and category for the funds to be used by the ambulance service.

Josh Dietz reported that he spoke with Carl, the instructor for EMT classes. Classes may begin shortly after the new year. Ten students will be the minimum requirement per class.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Kearns reported the sidewalk project along Spotsylvania is nearly complete. ADA requirements still need to be completed. Clerk Benwell reported that several parents in the village have expressed gratitude for the new sidewalk. Mayor Behnken thanked Trustees Politsch and Kearns for their efforts on the sidewalk, as well as Superintendent Remick.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Transfer Request Report was provided to the board prior to the board meeting for review. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the transfers. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The monthly bills were reviewed by the Audit Committee prior to the meeting. Trustee Newbold inquired as to why the electrical bill is so high at the building near the bulk water station. Superintendent Remick will investigate it and report back to the board. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve payment of the monthly bills as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

A Committee of the Whole met to conduct interviews for the full-time Department of Public Works position. Trustee Geppert made the motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to hire Devin Brown for full-time Department of Public Works. Trustee Politsch reported the hire date would be effective November 08, 2022.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold reported the cemetery continues to look nice and mowing should be just about finished for the season.

ORDINANCES

The Ordinance Committee met October 27. A solar installation ordinance was discussed, including permits and fees for building. The funeral leave ordinance will need to have wording updated. The job classification ordinance will stay the same. The health insurance ordinance will need wording updated. The new ordinances will be ready by the next board meeting or the first meeting in December. Mayor Behnken added that the wording for requiring a physical for employment needs to be removed as it is not enforced. Clerk Benwell will work on the ordinances.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch reported that the Village received the St. Clair County Park Grant contract. Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to purchase the playset, benches, mulch, and supplies included in the St. Clair County Park Grant contract for \$30,313.17. A vote was answered aye by all members present. Trustee Politsch reported the Lions Club is interested in working on the sign at Okaw Valley Park. They would like to plant perennial plants and trees.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE & ADA

There was a meeting with the Fire District to discuss the ambulance contract. The 2023 contract will be written for \$152,000.00. The previous contract was \$120,000.00. Trustee Politsch left a message to discuss the ambulance contract with the Mayor of Lenzburg.

MARINA

Ameren has completed their work but the campsites are not connected yet. Trustee Newbold requested a list of what needs to be accomplished to open the campsites before the Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for November 28, 2022 at 6:30pm. Trustee Politsch asked if there will be a new advertisement for the marina project. Trustee Feder asked Clerk Benwell to check with the St. Louis Post Dispatch for advertising prices. The board discussed other possibilities to advertise marina proposals.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Trustee Politsch asked about the status of the Spotsylvania project. Mayor Behnken informed the board that the Federal Highway Administration has indicated that we may use the first day of the state's fiscal year to open bids, which is July 1, 2023. We are currently awaiting environmental sign off.

Trustee Politsch requested a copy of the contract with Reliable Sanitation as the contract is set to be renewed in January. Clerk Benwell will provide a copy of the contract to the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Property & Parks

Mayor Behnken asked when the Okaw Valley Park drainage project would begin. Trustee Politsch said that the project is on hold until Spring.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President