

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

VISITORS

Mark Schreder 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 Politsch to approve the November 21, 2022 board minutes. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken sent a letter of support to Sparta Hospital as part of the application process for the grant funding the mobile health unit.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Benwell reported that 52% of surveys have been returned for the Community Development Block Grant. All ordinances have been uploaded to Municode. A projected completion date of the project was not available by board meeting time.

TREASURER'S TIME

Mayor Behnken reported a year-to-date surplus of \$289,000.00. Inflation increased state revenue sharing. Expenses are \$113,000.00 less as expenses associated with repaving Spotsylvania were built into the budget, but the project did not take place. Loan payments also were not part of expenses as the loans have been paid off. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the October and Year to Date Financial Report. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger requested approval to upgrade an in-car laptop from 2G to 4G as Verizon will eliminate 2G at the end of the year. Trustee Newbold made the motion, seconded by Trustee Kearns to approve the purchase for \$349.01. A vote was answered aye by all members present. Chief Simburger requested installation of four car radios. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve car radio installation for four car radios totaling \$651.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

EcoAnalysts completed the Mussel Survey Report. They did not find any signs of current or prior mussel activity. Trustee Newbold requested Superintendent Remick inquire with the IL Environmental Protection Agency as to becoming exempt from future studies since they found the environment is not conducive for mussel survival.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Trustee Politsch reported a thank you letter was sent by the school thanking the village for the sidewalk. The sidewalk is mostly complete, with a few areas to be finished by Mudcreek.

Mayor Behnken spoke on his Sidewalk Rebuild Plan. His plan is to repair sections of sidewalk throughout town that have been identified as dangerous. There was discussion concerning removing sidewalks altogether, pouring all new sidewalks incrementally over several years, and making repairs. The issue will be further discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Volkert Engineering provided their contract for engineering on the Spotsylvania paving project. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the contract. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Mayor Behnken reported the first round of investments have matured with Fidelity. They were rolled over into a two-year CD with a 4.85% yield.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

The committee recommended hiring Aaron Storie as a part-time police officer. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert to hire Aaron Storie, effective 11/22/22. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The committee recommended promoting Gary Idecker to Lead Water Operator with a \$1.00 per hour wage increase. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to make Gary Idecker Lead Water Operator effective 01/01/2023. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCES

Trustee Politsch reported there are no ordinance updates. She has concerns that she would like to discuss at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch reported that she met with Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders. They are excited to assist with Arbor Day 2023. Trustee Politsch requested that New Athens Arbor Day 2023 be held on April 29, 2023.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE & ADA

Josh Dietz submitted a quote to replace the AED at Village Hall. A motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Politsch to purchase the AED for \$1989.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present. Trustee Geppert took the ambulance to Wetzel Automotive to have the steering column fixed.

Trustee Politsch requested purchasing a flashing pedestrian sign be installed at the school crosswalk. Bids are between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Trustee Politsch will work with Superintendent Remick on the matter.

MARINA

Superintendent Remick stated that every pedestal needs to be replaced at the campgrounds. It will be further discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2022-06: Tax Levy Vote was presented. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the tax levy. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President