Village of New Athens

Committee of the Whole Meeting

08/25/2025

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Arlene Geppert. Those in attendance were Gary Kearns, John Feder, Rich Stoops, Steve Newbold, and Ryan Heinecke. Nancy Ritter, Village Clerk were also in attendance, as well as Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

**Visitors**

Roger Waldron, Ronald Locke, Linda Locke, Anita Schneidewind, Mark Schneidewind, Donald Amos, Tonya Kolis, Jon Poetker, Scott Harriss, Russ Mathis, Jim Newman, Judy Newman, Joe Behnken, Jane Behnken, Larry Reuss, Chris Reuss, Carol Smith, Terry Randle, Mary Rousan, Frank Rousan, Jay Patel, Steve Keel and Edwin Cockrell, Jr.

Jon Poetker invited residents from Hidden Lake Estate subdivision to discuss his plans for building a senior living complex on the lots that are zoned multi-family. He discussed the type of homes that he was going to build, which are small one- and two-bedroom houses.

The residents were concerned that these homes would turn into HUD homes in the future and that it would lower the value of their homes. Mr. Poetker advised the group that these homes would be registered as senior living for people aged fifty-five and up.

After a lengthy discussion with the residents, Mr. Poetker had to leave the meeting and advised the residents to call him if they have more questions or concerns.

**Streets and Alleys** – Trustee Kearns said that he thinks the culvert situation at 402 S. Market St. might be corrected. They will find out for sure the next time it rains.

**Finance and Audit** – Mayor Newbold wanted to clarify to the Board that when the treasurer mentioned at the last regular board meeting that the general fund had $1,000,000 available, that was the total in the account but part of that is earmarked for the Spotsylvania St. project and the Business District.

Newbold mentioned that he and Trustee Geppert would be going to the bank sometime this week or next to purchase the CDs the board approved.

**Water and Sewer** – The water drainage issue on Mari Ln was discussed briefly. It was mentioned that a large culvert may need to be installed.

Mayor Newbold advised the Board that Kaskaskia Water District raised their rates in July by $.50. It was advised to raise our water rates by $.50 as well.

**Personnel** – The Board agreed to hire a part-time office assistant for the Village Clerk. The hours would be roughly 15 hours per week, which could be flexible with what needs to be done within the office. It was decided to pay the assistant $21.00 per hour with no benefits. The Clerk was advised to put on the next regular board meeting agenda to advertise the position.

Executive Session regarding comp time was suggested for the end of the meeting.

**Public Property and Parks** – Eddy Cockrell, Jr. stated that he did get the insurance for the park usage for his event in October. His backup plan, if the weather does not cooperate, is to use the Community Hall.

**Cemetery** – Nothing to discuss.

**Ordinance –** Mayor Newbold said he was in contact with the village attorney regarding the ordinance for manufactured homes but has not received any feedback since.

**Improvement and Grants** – Erin Wilson contacted the Village regarding a service project for the high school students to do on September 11th. She was advised about having the fire hydrants painted. The Village is in the process of coordinating this project with Wilson, Stan Ruhmann and Mr. Lehman at the school.

**Public Safety** – Nothing to discuss.

**Marina** – The Board briefly discussed the boat slips. Remick said they have been cleaning up the rough areas and he has a plan for the rest.

Trustee Heinecke asked about dredging. It was suggested to contact the Corp of Engineers to see what can be done.

Remick received a quote from Vandervanter Engineering for the work that needs to be done at the lift station. The total amount is $55,115.00. Trustee Feder suggested Remick get a few other bids.

**Other Business** – It was recommended to put the manufactured home request for 505 S. Van Buren St. on the agenda for the next regular board meeting for approval.

The meeting entered executive session at 8:10 p.m.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:40 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

 Arlene Geppert

 Vice President

 Nancy Ritter

 Village Clerk