

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, Fitzgerald and Feder. Trustee Geppert was absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police and Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer. Ambulance Director, Andrew Green, arrived late.

VISITORS

Bill Wilson was present to observe. Scott Ford was present to discuss property and Jason Bohannon was present to ask if local arrests are made public. Chief Buehler stated that he has a list of arrest, ordinance violations and other data posted in Village Hall.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the October 16th regular board meeting were submitted to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2023 regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

The mayor had nothing to report.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S TIME

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log.

Buehler noted that the police department received a donation check in the amount of \$5,000 as a thank you to Officers Renner and Berry for their help on a medical emergency call.

There was a brief discussion regarding body cameras and the need for a taser. Buehler said a taser will cost \$810.00 and he asked if he could use the funds from the police savings account to purchase. It was noted that the department could use those funds at anytime without board approval, as long as it is used for police items.

The purchase of a computer for the upcoming Ford F150 police cruiser needs to be purchased. A quote was received from CDS Office Technologies in the amount of \$5,208.00. It was noted that a second one will need to be ordered later for the second new police vehicle.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to purchase the tough book computer for the Ford F150 police cruiser from CDS Office Technologies in the amount of \$5,208.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick noted that the ditch behind US Bank has been cleaned up. He also noted that there were two different water leaks over the weekend; Linda Lane on Friday and Illinois St./Benton St on Saturday.

Remick stated that Liquid Engineering did the water tower inspection. He is waiting on a final report.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

The board previously discussed increasing the billing rates for the ambulance runs. A new list was presented to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearns, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the increased ambulance billing rates as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Mayor Behnken brought up a CDBG PY24 grant for possible approval. Trustee Newbold had some concerns with the project and engineering cost. Newbold felt that the village should take a year off from big projects. It was agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The monthly bills were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the payment of the monthly bills as were presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A list of transfers were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the transfers as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

An agreement with Leak Detection Services was presented to the board for approval. The cost for this service would be \$7,680.00. Superintendent Remick said they could start tomorrow if approved and it could take up to two weeks to complete.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Kearns, to approve the agreement with Leak Detection Services. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PERSONNEL

Mayor Behnken noted that the board needs to approve the resignation of Amy Ohlendorf.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to accept the resignation of Amy Ohlendorf. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Deputy Clerk Ritter received documentation from Elaine Hutsell as proof of relationship regarding a set of cemetery plots at Oakridge Cemetery. Mrs. Hutsell requested approval for burial rights as her deceased parents owned the plot but she has no deed. She provided her birth certificate and marriage license as well as a letter that was sent to her in 2005 from former Village Trustee Vickie Luter, authorizing the transaction.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to authorize the transfer of ownership of cemetery plot 151, 3rd Addition to Oakridge Cemetery to Elaine Hutsell. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch noted that the St. Clair County Park Grant was approved for \$31,840.23, instead of \$50,000.00. This did not cover the parks and recreation master plan.

She stated that the board needs to discuss the Metro East Park Grant. Trustee Feder suggested holding off on submitting that grant.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Trustee Politsch spoke with Josh Dietz and was told that the EMT class only has two more sessions left. It was also noted that the schedule has been looking good.

MARINA

Mayor Behnken stated that there was a mediation meeting regarding the litigation between the Village and Ervin Smith. A settlement amount was discussed. Per the document that was submitted by the mayor, the total settlement would be \$210,000.00. The Village would be responsible for \$200,000.00 and the two different insurance companies involved would each pay \$5,000.00.

Trustee Newbold stated that he was not in favor of the amount agreed upon. He felt that the Board didn't have a choice as it appeared to have been a done deal between the mediator, the mayor and the attorneys. He stated that if the Village didn't approve the

settlement, the Village would have to pay more. Trustee Politsch noted feeling the same.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the litigation settlement with Ervin Smith regarding the marina. A vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Feder, who voted nay.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

A resolution was presented to increase property tax rates 10% to defray ambulance fund losses. If approved, a hearing will have to take place.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-10**, to increase the property taxes by 10%. A vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Trustee Feder and Trustee Fitzgerald, who both voted nay.

A resolution was presented committing marina revenue, including campground rental revenue, to be used for the marina expenses and projects.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-11** committing marina and campground funds. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A resolution was presented committing the police savings account to be used for police purchases only.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearns, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-12**, committing the police savings account to be used for police activities only. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board previously discussed property at the industrial park owned by Jeff Tucker. Mayor Behnken explained that if the Village were to purchase the said lot from Tucker, we would have to advertise for bids and an ordinance must be prepared and voted on by a 3/4 vote of all board members and himself.

Trustee Kearns stated that the Village messed up something down there and it needs to be fixed. Scott Ford said he will be evicted from the said property within three weeks if this is not settled. Ford said the Village has had this property surveyed three different times. Trustee Kearns said that he asked Tyler Liefer why the property was surveyed and he said that it was done to be included in lots 3 & 4 that Ford had purchased.

Ford said his attorney told him that the Village's attorney said that the Board voted against this. Mayor Behnken advised him that was never a vote on this. Ford requested that it be posted in the minutes that the Village Board had no idea where the village attorney got the information that the Board voted against him on this matter.

The Board discussed having a special board meeting on November 13th at 6:00 p.m. to vote on this matter.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk