

401

DECEMBER 18, 2023

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

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, Fitzgerald, Feder, Geppert and Kearns. Also, present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer, and Jason Berry, patrol officer for New Athens Police Department.

The motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to move the Ambulance Service report to after visitor's comments, so Josh Dietz could leave. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

VISITORS

Matt Ridlen, Jason Bohannon, and Josh Dietz.

Matt Ridlen, employee of Public Works, suggested that when a police officer contacts a resident of New Athens, that it should not be discussed at a Village Board meeting. This situation is a personal issue and should not be discussed in a public forum. Due to a Village Board Trustee discussing this during a Board meeting, this could result in a possible civil lawsuit.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Josh Dietz reported they had fifteen calls in eighteen days. The ALS quote is approximately \$3500 for two narcotic boxes. These boxes are RFID tagged and logged. Requesting quotes for other equipment is expected to be \$10,000 or less, and they should be ready to be presented by the January meeting. ALS would allow us to bill at a higher rate and pick up some mutual calls. If we have one EMT and one Paramedic, we could run ALS calls.

The ambulance contracts have not been returned yet.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the December 4, 2023, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve minutes from the December 4, 2023, regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes of the November 27, 2023, Committee of the Whole were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2023, Committee of the Whole as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor suggested that since next Monday is Christmas day, that the Committee of the Whole meeting be moved to December 26. Motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to skip the December Committee of the Whole meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members.

VILLAGE CLERK

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve Resolution No. 2023-17, to appoint Paula Allard to fill the vacancy of IMRF authorized agent. A vote was answered aye by all members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy Fauth stated he will keep the Board apprised of the situation with the reconciliation error that occurred on the October bank statement. The village has spent a lot of money this year and he presented reports showing the balance sheet of December 18, 2023, compared to the same date a year ago, which is down by \$96,000. The judgement from the lawsuit has not been paid yet, as we have not received the settlement documents. After we receive those documents, we will have a period of maybe 30 days prior to having to pay for it. Part of our expenses for this year, which was a 'prepaid' expense, is our IML liability insurance for the 2024 calendar year, of approximately \$100,000.

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, and seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the treasurer's report. A vote was answered aye by all members.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log.

Buehler informed the Board that Computype was out today. They will synchronize Jake's car next week, so we can link his car to the access point. Quotes for body cams will be available at the next meeting. Trustee Newbold thanked the NAPD for their quick action during the incident last night. He felt it was managed quickly and professionally.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick stated the sidewalk at Market and Jackson is completed now. Chris received a resignation from Devin Brown. His last day will be December 29th. He'd like permission to replace Devin. Mayor Behnken said he does not need board approval to hire a new employee. Chris has copies of Devin's resignation letter if anyone would like one. He presented the Nelson Leak Detection Services report and addendum. Water meters are having issues, and they are not registering water loss. The trailer court meter needs upgrading. Sensus iPearls are costing us \$140-160 apiece. The meters we have now are capable of drive by read and capable of sending information to village hall. He'd like to start replacing 10-12 a month. We currently have about one hundred Sensus meters. It will take some time to replace all of them, doing a few at a time. It is more cost effective to do it in this manner. Chris would like to start with the largest meters first (Sieman's, school, etc). Large meters do not always register a *low flow volume*. The

lift station pump motor is having problems. The pump and boot have separated. He has a call to an engineering firm that is supposed to come out and look at it. They were just here in May 2023 and inspected the motor. Chris continued to discuss the cost of the pipe slitter. He borrowed one from Steve Galle. He explained the purpose and the benefits of purchasing our own for the village. The best quote was \$1100.

Motion was made to purchase the Hammerhead brand slitter assembly by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Kearns. A vote was answered aye by all members.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Nothing to report.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Trustee Fitzgerald is still working on the ordinance regarding comp time for salaried employees and will have it ready for the January meeting.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch has the proclamation for April 20, 2024, as Arbor Day. Tree City USA has been submitted and approved by the state and now it waits for the Arbor Day Foundation.

Motion to approve proclamation by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all members.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Chris is trying to produce a summary of the public campgrounds through Roverpass, of how much revenue/expenses have been incurred. He'd like to know how much of that profit has gone to the city and what the expenses are. There are reports in Roverpass but they are not user friendly. We had 159 reservations through Roverpass. It has taken in over \$24,000. Trustee

Geppert asked if the previous tenants have removed the remaining items out of the marina and Chief Buehler stated that they have been back twice to remove their belongings.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Behnken presented an ordinance regarding the Tax Levy.

Motion made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to accept Ordinance No. 2023-06, Tax Levy.

Passed, this 18th day of December 2023, on the following roll call vote:

John Feder		NAY
Richard Fitzgerald		NAY
Arlene Geppert	AYE	
Gary Kearns		NAY
Steve Newbold	AYE	
Debby Politsch	AYE	
Joe Behnken, Mayor	AYE	

Motion made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to give Paula Allard access to the online banking system with First National Bank of Waterloo. A vote was answered aye by all members.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Arlene Geppert, to approve Christmas gifts for employees, consisting of gift cards to local restaurants in the amount of \$50.00 for full time employees, Joshua Dietz and Andrew Green to be considered full time employees, and \$25.00 for part time employees. A vote was answered aye by all members.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn the meeting @ 7.22 p.m., by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all members.

Joe Behnken, President

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector