

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 and Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer.

**VISITORS**

Ron Hampton, Bill Wilson, Jason Bohannon, Kevin Dietzel, Mark Beare and Janica Gentry Schlemmer.

Mark Beare is with Monroe County Transit Service. They are planning on doing a pick-up route in New Athens. The pick-up days would be Tuesdays and Thursdays and the pick-up location will be at the Dollar General Store. The service will cover the Green Mount Rd. corridor. He provided some schedules to leave at village hall.

Kevin Dietzel was present to inquire about the lawsuit. No information was given.

**READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes from the November 20, 2023, regular board meeting was submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023, regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the November 13, 2023, special board meeting was submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2023, special board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Behnken had nothing to report.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Deputy Clerk Ritter noted that trash pick-up the week of Christmas and the week of New Year's will be on Saturday.

**TREASURER'S TIME**

Nothing to report.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log.

Buehler noted that a new box for drug disposal was set up in village hall.

Trustee Feder inquired about a taser for a part-time officer as well as video and audio in his car. Buehler said the officer just became certified on the new taser and he is working on the other issues.

Feder inquired about how an arrest is done and asked about how a case was handled with a village employee. Buehler said he followed the proper procedures for this case.

Buehler received a quote for a computer for the new police vehicle from CDS Office Technologies. The amount is \$5,602.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the CDS Office Technologies quote for the auto camera for the new police vehicle in the amount of \$5,602.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Superintendent Remick noted that the rest of the Christmas decorations are up. Remick stated that not all the lights are working but we are waiting for Ameren to fix them.

Remick stated that Nelson Leak Detection Services is just about done and will have a report soon after completion.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Trustee Politsch stated that, per Josh Dietz, seven of the nine EMT students have passed the test here.

She mentioned that they are still talking about working on an ALS field upgrade and forming an ambulance district.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

The monthly bills were submitted for approval of payment.

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

**WATER AND SEWER**

Nothing to report.

**PERSONNEL**

Trustee Politsch requested executive session at the end of the meeting.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

Nothing to report.

**CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE**

Trustee Fitzgerald is working on an ordinance regarding comp time.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Trustee Politsch noted that the proposal for Arbor Day is April 20, 2024. She is working on the next Tree City USA application renewal.

Politsch stated that she did an online seminar with Roverpass and there is a big marketing campaign regarding the 2024 solar eclipse that will be passing through on April 8, 2024.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

Remick said the water is shut off at half of the campsites.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES**

Mayor Behnken presented an ordinance regarding the Tax Levy.

Trustee Politsch stated that at the hearing there were some concerns about what would happen with the extra tax money if the ambulance service went under, and it was stated that it would still be used for other village funds.

A motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve **ORDINANCE 2023-05**, regarding the Tax Levy. A vote was answered aye by Trustee Geppert and Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered nay by Trustees Fitzgerald, Feder, Politsch and Kearns. The vote did not pass.

A resolution was presented to not move forward with the park plan grant that was previously approved.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-14**, regarding not moving forward with the park plan grant. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A resolution was presented to give Mayor Behnken and Trustee Newbold authority to separate one Fidelity account into six per the recommendation of the auditors.

• **DECEMBER 4, 2023,**

**VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS**

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to give Mayor Behnken and Trustee Newbold authority to separate one Fidelity account into six accounts per the auditors. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to enter executive session regarding personnel at 7:20 p.m. with just the Mayor and Board members. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk