

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 and Feder. Trustees Geppert and Kearns were absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer and Officer Jason Berry.

VISITORS

Jason Bohannon was present to observe. Bob Matzenbacher asked the Board for placement of two signs at the entrances of town in honor of Whitey Herzog. He stated the signs would be 72 X 48 aluminum signs.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to authorize the placement of two signs in honor of Whitey Herzog. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Ron Hampton was present to make note of the Village website not being up to date. He also asked why the sidewalks on Jackson St. were being replaced as they are not the worst ones in town and the residents that live on that block were not notified in advance.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the November 6, 2023 regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023 regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the October 23, 2023 committee of the whole meeting were submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2023 committee of the whole meeting as were presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken recommended the Board approve the appointment of Village Clerk and Village Collector to Paula Allard, with the current maximum salary and benefits.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to appoint Paula Allard as Village Clerk and Village Collector with the current maximum salary and benefits. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

VILLAGE CLERK

Deputy Clerk Ritter reminded the Board that Village Hall will be closed November 22nd through November 27th. She stated that she will be back in the office on November 28th.

TREASURER'S TIME

The monthly Treasurer's report had been submitted for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the monthly Treasurer's report as was presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log.

Buehler noted that Officer Berry was able to acquire a monitor for the police department, which was donated by Walmart.

Buehler noted that another car camera would need to be ordered for the new Ford Explorer unit. A quote was received from 10-8 Video in the amount of \$2,609.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the purchase of a car camera from 10-8 Video in the amount of \$2,609.00, for the new Ford Explorer. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Chief Buehler stated that a wifi access point needs to be established for the body cameras. Computype can set this up and the cost would be \$1,020.13.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to authorize Computype to set up a wifi access point for the police body cameras in the amount of \$1,020.13. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Buehler noted that hardware and software for the storage and backup of the body cameras and car cameras was needed. Computype's quote for this would be \$1,495.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve Computype's quote for hardware and software for the storage and backup of the body cameras and car cameras in the amount of \$1,495.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick noted that Nelson Leak Detection has been in town and they have found no major leaks at this point.

Remick also noted that his department has started working on Christmas lights but does not think the snowflakes will be up by Thanksgiving.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Nothing to report.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Remick noted that the Board had previously said that Bob Macke was to be hired at the same pay scale as they did for Devin Brown. It was noted that in the previous minutes there is no mention of this. He stated that Macke was to start at 80% of the base pay then 90% after three months and 100% after six months.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to pay Bob Macke at 90% of base pay after three months and 100% of base pay after six months. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Remick requested salary employees be allowed comp time since sometimes they work over 40 hours. It was suggested to discuss this matter further at the next committee of the whole meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to discuss comp time for salaried employees at the next committee of the whole meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Fitzgerald wanted to discuss disclosure of private information. He wanted to know who and why personal phone numbers were given out of former employees. Trustee Feder said he gave out the former clerks' phone numbers so the new clerk could discuss the position. Fitzgerald felt that it is not a good practice and opens up the Village to possible litigation. Feder said he texted the village attorney and was told he could do that.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch noted that the contract needs to be approved for the walking trail and upgrades to the pavilion that were approved for the St. Clair County Park Grant. The amount of these two projects would be \$29,756.85.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the St. Clair County Park Grant contract for the walking trail and pavilion. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

The ambulance contract with the New Athens Fire Protection District will expire at the end of the year. It was suggested to meet with the fire district to discuss the contract.

MARINA

There was a brief discussion regarding whether to keep the campground open all year. Remick said they have two frost free hydrants down there and there would be no individual hook ups during the winter. It was decided to keep open all year.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Behnken presented an ordinance regarding paid leave for all workers in regards to the State of Illinois Paid Leave Act. Behnken stated that by passing this ordinance it will save the village approximately \$25,000 per year.

Trustee Feder wanted to clarify that the current employees will not be losing anything that they already have. Mayor Behnken stated that it would not affect what they already receive.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve **ORDINANCE 2023-04**, regarding the Paid Leave Act. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A resolution was presented to give Nancy Ritter access to the on-line banking at First National Bank of Waterloo.

It was noted that the last paragraph in the resolution was an error that didn't belong with this resolution.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-13** authorizing Nancy Ritter access to the on-line banking at First National Bank of Waterloo and to remove final paragraph that was in error. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding using TIF funds to replace fire hydrants by the school and to repair the road by the school as well. It was noted that the road may belong to the school so the school will have to request. Trustee Politsch will talk with the school superintendent, Brian Karraker.

The Board discussed a good time to review executive minutes. It was noted that they have not been reviewed in at least two years. The Deputy Clerk stated that she will look for the past two years of minutes. The Board will review at the December committee of the whole meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk