

7:30 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 Wilson, Geppert, Feder, Newbold, and Politsch. Trustee Hamon was absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Sandy Stolte, Treasurer, and Leo Simburger, Chief of Police.

VISITORS

None.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the previous board meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting for approval.

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

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken reported that he will not be opening a line of credit at Citizens Community Bank at this time. CDS up for renewal are being renewed on one-year terms.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve Resolution No. 2021-11 Establishing Wages for 2022. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present. Ambulance runs increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per run, and all wages under IL Minimum Wage have been increased to meet the minimum. Debbie Main's position as custodian was included in the resolution.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Benwell reported the accounts continue to be consolidated at Citizens Community Bank. Locis Training went well. An emergency communication protocol among departmental supervisors has been established.

TREASURER'S TIME

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger requested to purchase an office chair from Amazon for approximately \$150.00. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the purchase. A vote was answered aye by all members present. The board requested that all department managers initial all invoices for purchase by their department. Clerk Benwell will oversee the process.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick reported that more sewer jetting has been completed. Camera

work is being done now, with lining to commence in two weeks. The sewer plant has a leak that has shut down an SVR tank. The seal will need to be replaced. Mark Dietzel has finished rehabbing the home at 301 S Elizabeth.

Superintendent Remick discussed the upcoming need for a new mower. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve the purchase of a new Kubota mower retailing approximately \$15,000.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present.

Trustee Politsch reported that an incident at the public school yielded a six-minute response time by the ambulance service.

Mayor Behnken reports that the Village will completely deplete their Ambulance reserves by April 2025. The Fire District published a \$252,000.00 levy for the Ambulance Service. A meeting will be held to discuss. Trustee Geppert reports they are still waiting on parts for the garage door install. The cost of the door and installation is \$6,660.00.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Politsch to order six signs at \$16.00 each to advertise for the hiring of EMTs. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Residents commended the Public Works Department on their exceptional job during the latest snowstorm.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Audit Committee reviewed the monthly bills prior to the meeting.

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

WATER AND SEWER

The committee recommended the purchase of a pump and trailer from NuWay for \$9,734.15. The diesel pump is more efficient and fuel is available overnight. The water pump will work for water leaks as well as other purposes. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder to purchase the pump and trailer. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The committee recommended the purchase of a colorimeter from Hach for \$589.12.

The existing colorimeter needs calibration. The cost of shipping and calibration was almost as much as purchasing a new unit. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Geppert to purchase the colorimeter. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Payment of EMT classes by the Village for new recruits was discussed. Full reimbursement will be made to candidates within the entire Fire District who make a one year commitment to the Village. A reimbursement of fifty percent will be offered to anyone outside of the Village for a one year commitment. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the tuition reimbursement. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The EMT positions will be advertised in the Freeburg Tribune and North County News.

A recommendation to hire Jake Renner as a full-time police officer was made by the committee. Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to hire Officer Renner, effective 02/08/2022. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

The contract for the 2022 mowing season was discussed. Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Politsch to award the mowing contract to Steve Kinzinger, DBA Countryside Lawn, for the same price as last year. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

The committee discussed entering into a contract with SOCS for a new website build and hosting. The annual cost would be \$3700.00, with content migration quoted at \$350.00. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the contract with SOCS. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Politsch reported that a payment of \$23,824.34 was received for the playground project from the 2021 St. Clair County Parks Grant.

ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Property

Marina

Chief Leo sent a letter to the remaining boat owner advising him we are charging rent. There was a break in at the Marina; a police report has been made. Chris and Leo will work on deterrents. Renovation continues on electrical outlets and rebuilding the structure. The property Committee will be scheduling a meeting at the Marina.

Streets & Alleys

Sewer Cleanout Project- Eight blocks completed as of 10/04/21. Eighteen blocks completed as of 11/01/21. Twenty-three blocks completed as of 01/03/2022. Twenty-four blocks completed as of 02/07/22.

Quote on water line collapse 108 North Market. \$65k estimate- not covered by insurance. John Feder will research repairing the line in-house using a remote model car. Pipe guy meeting John.

Other

John and Steve met with the owner of the laundromat, Jim 01/13/22; they are scheduling a second meeting.

Consider increasing Video Gaming Terminal Fees in June 2022.

Report due to IDOT in March on 2021 MFT expenditures. Amy & Chris are working on report.

CDBG due 03/11/22. Chris talked with Tim and he is working on grant and aware of the deadline.

Steve talked to Katie Main at Bost's office. She sent something to Jerry. Amy is following up with Katie Main.

Other Plans and Issues

Marina

Plans for the Riverhouse and boat slip are still pending.

Business Development

Billy Cumberland (Steamboat Building) is not going to proceed until next Spring due to Covid-19 concerns. He is planning on six employees.

We received an inquiry regarding Wade Boat Dealer building. There is interest in putting an RV Repair Facility in the building. Nothing will proceed until after May 2022.

Other

Village of New Athens v. Napier Citizens Bank. Hearing status meeting was held and we are preparing a proposed order which will avoid a full hearing and the need to get estimates on repairing the residence.

Employees request to buy service time credits with IMRF. Joe sent cost worksheet to IMRF to review. Employees have received letters back, with errors. Waiting for new cost estimates from IMRF.

Steve Newbold working with Solar Solutions on proposal for solar for sewer plant.

Streets and Alleys

Trustee Geppert and Trustee Politsch submitted a list to Superintendent Remick of fifty locations whereby sidewalks need repair.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President