

7:52 p.m. The annual meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Behnken. A roll call was answered aye by Wilson, Geppert, Hamon, Feder, Politsch and Newbold. Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer, Andrew Green and Chief Simburger were also present.

Mayor Behnken noted the agenda is a little different than the board is used to, it is in compliance with 1-2-11 rules of the board ordinance. Mayor Behnken stated there are a lot of ordinances, a lot we cannot afford to comply with, but the ones we can easily comply with we are going to comply with them. If we do not like the ordinance or order of business, we need to simply change the ordinance. Until an ordinance for order of business is changed, we will need a motion at each meeting to move visitors from 5 to 2 and a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Trustee Hamon made a motion; seconded by Trustee Newbold to move visitors and public comments from number 5 to number 2. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert.

### **VISITORS**

Janie Behnken, Mary Jo Nuernberger, Ed Marsh, Terry Politsch, Tim Buehler, Shirley May, Thomas May, Kyle Wetzel, Vernon Hohenstreet, Ann Hohenstreet, Ed Cockrell, and John Kenney.

Ed Marsh was present with questions and concerns when oiling and chipping the streets. Mr. Marsh is very concerned with all the dust caused by the type of chips used. He is also concerned with all the extra chips used.

Ed Cockrell asked how many standing committees there are and is there a meeting schedule once per month for the committees. Mr. Cockrell asked when a committee meeting will be held for streets and alleys as he would like to attend and discuss some concerns. Mr. Cockrell reminded the board of the sexual harassment training; open meetings act and executive session rules.

Mayor Behnken said he will make appointments and committee appointments when he feels comfortable with making the appointments. Mayor Behnken stated visitors time by ordinance is confined to five minutes. He did not enforce it tonight but may have to in the future to keep the meeting moving.

### **READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

No minutes to read or approve.

### **MAYOR**

Mayor Behnken welcomed the newly elected trustees, John Feder (2-year term), Steve Newbold (4-year term), Debby Politsch (4-year term). Mayor Behnken congratulated Arlene Geppert on her successful re-election and welcomed Terry Hamon and Bill Wilson.

### **VILLAGE CLERK**

Nothing to report.

### **TREASURERS TIME**

Nothing to report.

### **POLICE CHIEF**

Nothing to report.

It was discussed a couple visitors did not get a chance to speak under visitors' time. Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to veer off the agenda and to allow the visitors to speak.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to allow the visitors to speak at this time. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert.

Ann Hohenstreet said a lot of money could be made by the police giving tickets on the hi-way. Mrs. Hohenstreet also said three years ago she offered to pay for paint and labor for people to have their houses painted and no one took her up on the offer. Mrs. Hohenstreet spoke with Home Depot and said if the Village makes a ruling that all houses and buildings must be painted, Home Depot will donate all the paint, primer, and brushes if they can use the Village as advertising. She went on to say New Athens is a unique town and needs a promoter.

John Kennedy asked Mayor Behnken if he planned to keep ownership of the New Athens Concerned Citizens Facebook page and if he thought it would be a problem if he keeps removing members while he is Village President. Mayor Behnken answered he will absolutely keep ownership and will remove anybody from the page that he feels is inappropriate with their language. Mayor Behnken said it is a private page.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Nothing to report.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE SUPERINTENDENT**

Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

Mayor Behnken requested executive session for personnel reasons with the village clerk and treasurer present.

Trustee Newbold made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to enter executive session at 8:28 p.m. with the village clerk and treasurer present. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert.

Trustee Newbold made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to return to regular session at 8:46 p.m. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Michelle Neff Village Clerk  
Joe Behnken Village President