

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 Wilson, Geppert, Hamon, Feder, Politsch and Newbold. Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer and Andrew Green were also present.

Mayor Behnken stated for the routine motions he is going to ask for an all-in favor for and all against vote. At any point in time if anyone wants a roll call vote, just ask for it.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to move public comments from number 5 to number 2. All voting aye, the motion carried.

VISITORS

Jeff Wetzel, Kyle Wetzel, Wayne Heinecke and Kevin Kubitschek

Wayne Heinecke was present to see if the Village has given anymore thought on selling the property behind New Athens Storage. Trustee Newbold noted there cannot be any movement on this until we appoint a Village Attorney. An ordinance needs to be established for an easement. Also, the sales price needs to be agreed upon.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to dispense with reading of the minutes. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold noted a couple corrections on the annual minutes.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to accept the minutes as corrected. All voting aye, the motion carried.

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken introduced Attorney Kevin Kubitschek, whom is the proposed appointment for Village Attorney. Attorney Kevin Kubitschek gave the board a bit of background on himself. Trustee Newbold noted our biggest issue is the marina. It had been through court and is now in the appellate court. Trustee Newbold's concern is if Kubitschek's name is now on the suit as representing the Village, would that be grounds for the Smith's to delay the ruling from the appellate court. Attorney Kubitschek spoke with Attorney Dennis a few days ago and got a run down on what has been going on the last several years with the Smith's and the marina. Attorney Kubitschek's opinion is whether Ted Dennis's name is on it or his name or some other attorney name, it is not going to affect what the judges are going to write. Attorney Kubitschek does not have any problem working with Attorney Dennis on this case and said in this situation where you are headed in the home stretch, it would be prudent to have the same jockey on the horse until the delivery. Mayor Behnken will insist if Kubitschek is appointed to Village Attorney, that he writes a memorandum of understanding between the Village and Attorney Dennis with specifics of charges per hour and maximum amounts charged.

Mayor Behnken has heard from most of the trustees regarding the committees they are most comfortable with. Committee and appointments will be made during the next meeting. Mayor Behnken will not be appointing the part-time police as they are employees.

Mayor Behnken is contemplating putting together an Ad-Hoc committee for the economic development of the marina. The committee would consist of a blend seven to nine people consisting of private citizens and trustees. It will focus on marketing.

Mayor Behnken noted the members on the committees will be reduced to three trustees.

Mayor Behnken explained and discussed establishing a committee as a whole.

Mayor Behnken and Trustee Newbold will meet with representatives from Sparta Hospital May 20th.

Mayor Behnken met with Frank Heiligenstein and said the ordinances have not been reviewed or updated since 2019. Heiligenstein is quoting \$2,500 to update.

Mayor Behnken reported he had a zoom session on the American Relief Plan Act. We are expecting a total of \$264,000 between this year and next year. Mayor Behnken is not sure what it can be used for yet and said there are a lot of strings to it.

Mayor Behnken spoke with Tyler Liefer regarding cleaning up the property at 300 South Elizabeth Street, so we have a better opportunity to sell it.

Mayor Behnken authorized Trustee Politsch to get a license from Illinois Municipal League that has the software to a grant finder program. Trustee Politsch met with Laura Wildermuth about helping with writing grants on an as needed basis. Trustee Politsch and Laura Wildermuth will be the primary ones involved in grants other than the grants that Tyler Liefer does for infrastructure and the grants Chief Simburger does for safety.

Trustee Politsch would like to see codes enforced for high weeds and derelict vehicles.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURERS TIME

Mayor Behnken reviewed the budget report for fiscal year 2022 with the trustees. The annual appropriations will be completed by the end of the quarter and will be in the same format as the budget.

Mayor Behnken stated the yearly audit with Scheffel Boyle needs to be approved by roll call vote. The audit runs almost \$12,000 and they put a ton of time into the audit.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hamon to approve the audit with Scheffel Boyle. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert.

POLICE CHIEF

Nothing to report.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Mayor Behnken reported a master service agreement needs to be approved with Volkert Engineering.

Trustee Hamon made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve to enter into an engineering master services agreement with Volkert. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert.

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, Public Safety/ADA

Mayor Behnken reported Mary Jo Nuernberger requested a ‘children playing’ sign on South Mill Street. Tyler Liefer said the board would have to vote and put it in ordinance form. Tyler will look at the area and report back to the board with pricing. Trustee Politsch requested Tyler to also look at the south end of Mari Lane.

Trustee Geppert reported an EMT application for Darryl Ballard was received and his background check came back okay.

Trustee Geppert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hamon to hire Darryl Ballard as a part-time EMT. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Tyler Leifer asked for a motion to go into executive session at the end of the meeting for personnel.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to enter executive session at the end of the meeting. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Public Property and Parks

Trustee Geppert noted she has two people that are interested in the 300 South Elizabeth Street property when we put it out for bid. Mayor Behnken asked if the title was ordered. Michelle Neff noted the phone for Chicago Title in Belleville is disconnected. Sandy Stolte stated she reviewed the paperwork from Attorney Dennis’s office and looked on the computer and there is no name as owner other than the Village. Mayor Behnken is concerned there may be a bank loan or lean on the property. Sandy Stolte said nothing shows up. Mayor Behnken stated we will decide if we want to risk selling without a title search or proceed with a title search at the next meeting.

Cemetery

Nothing to report.

Improvements and Grants

Nothing to report.

Ordinances

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS, AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tyler Liefer reported the sewer line that backed up into Laumbattas’ house was viewed with a video camera. A ball of roots, which was clogging the line, was cut out. Tyler was not sure if installing a backflow prevention device on her property is still the answer. Tyler is still checking on a price for the backflow. Tyler informed the board they will need to inform Mrs. Laumbattas if it is decided to not install the backflow prevention device on her line. Tyler said a permanent fix would be to get that section of sewer pipe lined.

Tyler Leifer stated the previously applied for STP federal grant has been recommended for funding to the EWG Board of Directors. We should hear something by the end of August. The grant amount asked for is \$424,400 with a total cost of \$586,000 to repave Spotsylvania Street.

Trustee Feder made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to enter executive session at 8:47 p.m. under personnel with Sandy Stolte and Tyler Liefer present. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold made a motion; seconded by Trustee Feder to return to regular session at 9:02 p.m. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Feder, Politsch, Hamon and Geppert.

Trustee Newbold made a motion; seconded by Trustee Politsch to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Michelle Neff Village Clerk
Joe Behnken Village President