

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, Feder and Politsch. Hamon and Newbold were absent. Sandy Stolte, Chief Simburger and Tyler Liefer were also present. Andrew Green arrived at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to move public comments from number 5 to number 2.

Trustee Geppert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to move public comments from number 5 to number 2. All voting aye, the motion carried.

VISITORS

Martha Laumbattus, Blake Feder, Rachel Buehler Girl Scouts Troop 557 Leader, Jolynn Galle Girl Scouts Troop 557, Kenadie Buehler Girl Scouts Troop 557, John Kennedy III, Savannah White, Diane Sinn Girl Scouts Troop 557, and Madie Sinn Girl Scout Troop 557

Martha Laumbattus was present asking the status for the correction of the sewer back up issue. Martha understood the Village has approved and will pay for the install of a backflow preventor on her sewer line. Tyler Liefer has contacted a plumber and is waiting for a price on a backflow preventor. It was stated the board has not yet approved to pay and install the backflow preventor. Tyler also noted the Village's sewer main that backed up has been cleaned out and a bunch of roots were cut out correcting the problem. Tyler said the plan is to slip line the sewer main and fix the tap which would solve her problem. Martha said she cannot be the guinea pig to see if the slip line would fix the problem.

Kenadie Buehler, Jolynn Galle and Madie Sinn with the Girl Scouts group 557 said they are working towards their silver award and want to make a lasting effect on the community. They would like to place planters at local business, maintain the planters, and change out the plants and decorations as the seasons change. They would also like to schedule a volunteer day every three months. Businesses would be invited to help clean up the community, such as planting trees, painting benches, picking up trash and cleaning the park equipment. The Girls Scouts will be asking for donations to pay for the supplies. The Girl Scouts are also open to suggestions from the board for the volunteer day. Mayor Behnken and the board was thankful for any help they are offering.

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 Feder to dispense with reading of the minutes. All voting aye, the motion carried.

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

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

The board previously received Resolution 2021-01 for appointments. Mayor Behnken is checking into and said he may have to take Trustee Geppert off the ESDA Coordinator if he finds she cannot be the coordinator and a trustee.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Resolution 2021-01 authorizing the appointments. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken is appointing Gary Idecker as interim superintendent of public works. The pay will be at his regular pay.

The board previously received Resolution 2021-02 to approve Gary Idecker as interim superintendent of public works.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Resolution 2021-02 authorizing Gary Idecker as interim superintendent of public works. All voting aye, the motion carried.

The board previously received a copy of the agreement for Sparta Hospital Mobile Clinic. The mobile unit has two patient rooms, a waiting area, and restroom.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to enter into an agreement with Sparta Hospital Mobile Clinic. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Andrew Green arrived at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to approve the COPS grant application. It was stated a new police officer would have to be hired for this grant. Mayor Behnken stated this would be close to a revenue neutral situation.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve to proceed with the grant application for the COPS grant 2021-2022. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken stated he is still working towards setting up a committee as a whole.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURERS TIME

Sandy Stolte previously gave the board the April treasurers report to review.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the April treasurer's report as presented. All voting aye, the motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger reported part-time officer Brad Penet resigned from all police work including New Athens.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Tyler Liefer said there is a hackberry tree on village property in the ditch behind Lehrs. A large limb fell on Lehr's property last year, which Lehrs cleaned up, but ask that we have the tree cut down.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Wilson to authorize Tyler Liefer get a quote to cut down the tree on village property behind Lehr's Meat Market. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Tyler Liefer said the integrator is obsolete and has been acting up. It was repaired last year, and we were told then, if something happens to it again it will not be able to be repaired. An android phone will also have to be purchased to use with the auto gun.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Politsch to authorize the purchase of an auto gun for the meter reader from Core & Main. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Tyler Liefer stated the sign is \$40 each and the post is \$20 each. A total of four signs would be needed for South Mill Street and Mari Lane.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the purchase and installation of four children playing signs. All voting aye, the motion carried.

The board was previously given the proposal to repair two backflow preventors for

\$1,080.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the proposal to have two backflow preventers rebuilt for \$1,080. All voting aye, the motion carried.

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

Trustee Feder called the neighboring towns regarding water and sewer rates. Mayor Behnken proposed an increase of 12.5% on water rates and 5% on sewer rates. Trustee Feder noted the water rate was increased in 2019 by \$1.50 per thousand and the sewer rate was raised by \$.50 per thousand in 2017. Mayor Behnken said Kaskaskia Water District increased the water rate to the Village by 6.25% in 2020 and will increase another 6.25% in July of 2021.

Personnel, Public Safety/ADA

Nothing to report.

Public Property and Parks

Nothing to report.

Cemetery

Nothing to report.

Improvements and Grants

Trustee Politsch reported she will meet with Tyler Liefer to get status on grants.

Ordinances

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS, AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Behnken stated the following ordinances all deal with real estate the Village owns.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve Ordinance 2021.01 authorizing the sale of real estate located behind New Athens Storage. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Ordinance 2021.02 authorizing the sale of real estate located at 300 South Elizabeth Street. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve Ordinance 2021.03 authorizing the sale of real estate located at 407 South East Street. All voting aye, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Behnken stated the sewer backflow prevention device was discussed under visitors.

Mayor Behnken received a message from Lindsey Middendorf that she reported break-ins at the Okaw Valley Park concession stand back in May. Chief Simburger said there was not a break-in, but there was damage to the door. The damage had rust on it, so it happened quite some time ago. Tyler Liefer noted this was not the first time this has happened. Tyler noted the concession stand was built around the door, so it would be difficult to replace the door. Tyler thought she may want the locks changed. Tyler nor Chief spoke with Lindsey. Chief said an additional lock can be put on the door.

Tyler Liefer asked when he resigns, if the cell phone number 618-340-9592 is he using be transferred over to him. He will get a new phone but wants to keep the number. The board was in consensus to allow Tyler to keep the phone number. Chief Simburger asked if we want to do away with the phone completely or put a new number on it. Mayor Behnken said he thought a new number should be put on the phone, but not to broadcast it. Mayor Behnken stated policemen are on duty 24 hours a day. If a citizen sees a water leak or sewer back up problem, they should call the non-emergency phone number and the police will do as they are directed to do.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Politsch to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Michelle Neff Village Clerk
Joe Behnken Village President