

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, Newbold and Politsch. Hamon was absent. Mayor Behnken declared a quorum. Sandy Stolte and Chief Simburger were also present.

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

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

**VISITORS**

Steve Woodward, William M Ridlen, BJ Wilson, Erica Penet, Gene Triefenbach, Blake and Katie Feder

Mayor Behnken reminded the visitors they have a maximum of five minutes each to speak per the ordinance.

Steve Woodward of the New Athens Historical Society presented a certificate of appreciation to the Village board for their continued support.

Gene Triefenbach stated a group of citizens is joining together regarding the New Athens Concerned Citizens Facebook page. Mr. Triefenbach stated Mr. Behnken has a Facebook group of which he takes great pleasure in eliminating individual's free speech on it. Since Mr. Behnken became the mayor of our town, when you block someone or eliminate them, it offends the constitution of the United States and Illinois. Mr. Triefenbach contacted the American Civil Liberties Union and the Knights of the First Amendment League, and both will consider bringing suit against New Athens if this doesn't cease and desist immediately. All blocked people must be reinstated.

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

Trustee Newbold noted a couple corrections.

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

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to approve the agreement with Attorney Kubitschek.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve to enter into an agreement with Attorney Kevin Kubitschek. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021.03 replacing 2021.01 appointing Ron Bobarsky as Public Building Superintendent and Public Works Superintendent and eliminating Arlene Geppert as ESDA Coordinator. Eliminating Arlene Geppert as ESDA Coordinator was her request as she felt a nonpaid appointment was in conflict with the fact that she is an elected official. Mayor Behnken said Trustee Geppert has volunteered to continue to help with the program.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by chair Mayor Behnken to move forward with Resolution 2021.03. A vote was answered aye by Politsch and nay by Geppert, Newbold, Feder, and Wilson. Appointment blocked. Mayor Behnken asked for executive session at the end of the meeting for the purpose to appoint a Superintendent

of Public Works.

Mayor Behnken asked for approval for the Appropriation Ordinance 2021.05 which is based on the budget previously presented.

Trustee Geppert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the annual Appropriations Ordinance 2021.05. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2021.04, increasing the sewer rates.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Ordinance 2021.04 changing the sewer rates. After discussion, Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to lay the primary motion for Ordinance 2021.04 on the table and to discuss at a water and sewer committee meeting, then brought back to the board the second meeting in July for a vote. Trustee Newbold asked for the dissemination of information to the public on why Mayor Behnken wants to increase the water rate 12.5% and the sewer rate 5%. It was discussed to have a public hearing. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2021.06 increasing the water rates.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve Ordinance 2021.06 changing the water rates. After discussion, Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to lay the primary motion for Ordinance 2021.06 on the table and discuss at a water and sewer committee meeting, then brought back to the board the second meeting in July for a vote. All voting aye, the motion carried.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Nothing to report.

**TREASURERS TIME**

Sandy Stolte reported the yearly audit process has started.

The board was previously given the May Treasurers report to review.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the May Treasurer's report as presented. All voting aye, the motion carried.

**POLICE CHIEF**

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

Chief Simburger reported the COPS grant has been completed.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Nothing to report.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Streets and Alleys**

Regarding the tree removal request in the alley at 206 North Market Street, Mayor Behnken will get an informal legal opinion from Attorney Kubitschek on the meaning of adjoining property as stated in Ordinance 33-3-9. The Streets and Alleys Committee will meet and discuss.

**Finance and Audit**

Nothing to report.

**Water and Sewer**

Trustee Feder will set up a committee meeting to discuss the sewer back up issue at 503 South Benton Street.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion for the purchase of a SL1000 Nitrification Testing Equipment for \$3,469.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the purchase of the SL1000 portable parallel analyzer for the Nitrification Action Plan. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken said a contract needs to be approved for wastewater testing. Tyler Liefer turned in a contract and Mayor Behnken did a study on the internal costs. Tac Inc., Hydro Services, Inc. and Certop Inc. also turned in a bid.

Trustee Feder made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve to enter into an agreement with Tyler Liefer for wastewater testing for a 12-month period. All voting aye, the motion carried.

**Personnel, Public Safety/ADA**

Nothing to report.

**Public Property and Parks**

Mayor Behnken stated we received a letter from the New Athens Fire Department asking to waive all permits, license fees and liquor license fee for their upcoming fall festival.

Trustee Geppert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Politsch to waive all permits, license fees and liquor license fee for the New Athens Fire Department's fall festival. All voting aye, the motion carried.

**Cemetery**

Nothing to report.

**Improvements and Grants**

Trustee Politsch reported there is a pending sidewalk grant for Spotsylvania Street for 4,000 feet of ADA compliant sidewalk. Trustee Politsch said the deadline is June 30, 2022, and the grant amount is \$50,000. Trustee Politsch said no engineering has been done for this grant.

Trustee Politsch asked for ideas for the CDBG 2022 grant. Mayor Behnken stated he was told the whole corporate limits are now considered low to moderate income, so we are not restricted to the downtown area anymore.

**Ordinances**

Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing new to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Behnken stated Chief Simburger is working on a plan to secure the door on the concession stand in the park.

Mayor Behnken noted the properties behind the motorcycle shop, 300 South Elizabeth and 407 South East are ready to be advertised for bids. We have a judicial deed that extinguished all property taxes. A tax bill was received, P-tax forms have been filled out and returned to St. Clair County.

Chief Simburger reported there are still three boats at the marina. One is being tinkered on. One was turned over to the Smiths and the other belongs to someone in Missouri. By law Chief is required to send a letter to the owner before starting the reclamation process. Chief has not found anyone to pull the boats out of the water. Chief to contact the guy tinkering on the boat and have it moved. Trustee Feder to take a look at the boats and find a way to have the boats removed and scrapped.

Mayor Behnken asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of a public works superintendent.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to enter into executive session at 8:54 p.m. regarding the public works superintendent position. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to return to regular session at 9:07 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold made a motion; seconded by Trustee Feder to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Michelle Neff Village Clerk  
Joe Behnken Village President