

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, Hamon, Newbold and Politsch. 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 Hamon, to move public comments from number 5 to number 2. All voting aye, the motion carried.

VISITORS

Ann H.

Ann H. was present with concerns that more than 20 very large trees were cut down this year and said the Village needs to take a stand on the Village’s living history and not allow trees to be cut down.

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

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Trustee Politsch updated the board regarding the Girl Scout community project. Trustee Newbold noted the school is making frames for some new Christmas lights and thought the girl scouts were going to string lights on them.

Mayor Behnken reminded the board of the upcoming public hearing July 14th at 7 p.m., regarding the water and sewer rate increase.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURERS TIME

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Nothing to report.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Trustee Feder reported Chris Remick is starting Monday, July 12th.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Streets and Alleys

Trustee Geppert reported the committee met June 29th with Ira Renshaw to discuss the tree he wants cut down in the alley of 206 North Market Street. Ira told the committee he will not pay for the removal of the stump.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Wilson to cut the tree down completely and grind the stump with Village to clean up and Ira Renshaw to pay half the cost. Discussion: Trustee Politsch said cutting down a tree is the entire tree including

taking out the stump. Trustee Wilson said it is two separate operations. Trustee Geppert stated Ira wants to keep the stump and refuses to pay half to have the stump removed. It was said if Ira does not want to pay for the stump to be ground the tree stays standing. Trustee Wilson withdrew his second to the motion. Trustee Hamon seconded the standing motion. Geppert, Hamon and Politsch voted aye. Feder, Newbold and Wilson voted nay. Mayor Behnken voted aye breaking the tie, motion carries.

Trustee Geppert reported Eddie Marsh was present at the committee meeting regarding the dust caused by the rock that is used when oiling the roads. All the supplies arrangements have already been made for the upcoming road oiling August 10th. The type of rock will be discussed for the next road oiling.

Trustee Geppert said Ed Cockrell was present at the streets and alley committee meeting regarding the property at North Jackson and Spring Street. Trustee Geppert turned it over to Trustee Newbold since it deals with property.

The rock issue at Spotsylvania Street and South Elizabeth Street has been filled in with cold patch.

Finance and Audit

Trustee Newbold reported the committee met and reviewed the bills.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Wilson to pay the bills as presented. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Water and Sewer

Trustee Feder reported the committee met with Mrs. Laumbattas June 29th regarding the sewer back up issue. The committee recommends regularly maintaining the Village's sewer main line and not to pay for installing a back flow preventor on Mrs. Laumbattas line. The board will vote on this at the next regular scheduled board meeting when Mrs. Laumbattas' s son can be present.

Personnel, Public Safety/ADA

Trustee Politsch reported the committee met June 28th to interview a part-time police officer. The committee recommends hiring Branden Watt as part-time police officer pending a successful background check. Trustee Politsch noted there is an issue with a full-time officer meeting his 15-month residency requirement, which will be discussed in executive session later in the meeting.

Trustee Geppert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to hire Braden Watt at part-time officer pending background check. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken stated the status of Public Works Superintendent appointment will be discussed in executive session at the end of the meeting.

Public Property and Parks

Trustee Geppert reported the committee met July 1st to discuss and review the ads for the surplus properties. The ads will run in the Freeburg Tribune July 15th, 22nd, and 29th. The bids will be opened during the August 2nd board meeting.

Cemetery

Nothing to report.

Improvements and Grants

Trustee Politsch reported the committee met July 1st. The monthly DCEO paperwork has been submitted. Trustee Politsch said she spoke with Mark at Volkert, and he suggested to wait on the sidewalk project on Spotsylvania Street until the street project is started.

The sidewalk completion is June 2022. The Spotsylvania Street project should be awarded in the next two months.

Trustee Politsch said the deadline for the St. Clair County Parks Grant is July 16th. Politsch is working on getting the grant for rubber mulch for the park. Trustee Politsch also said there is an IDNR grant and needs approval by the board in order to proceed.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to move forward with the St. Clair County Park Grant and to check into the grants with IDNR. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Ordinances

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS, AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Behnken stated the sewer backflow prevention device was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Chief Simburger to send out certified letters to the title owners of the boats left at the marina. We will have to wait for the return of the certified letters before moving forward with more paperwork. Then the boats will become ownership of the Village and can be disposed of.

Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to give approval for Chief Simburger to send certified letters to the title holders of the three boats and start the process of reclaiming and disposing of the boats. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Behnken reported Ameren wants the platform at the marina rebuilt or moved to the other side of the levy. It was discussed to have the marina declared a park to try and get some grant money.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hamon to enter into executive session for personnel, police and litigation at 8:51 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hamon to return to regular session at 9:37 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Feder to hold a special board meeting July 15th at 6:30 p.m. with Chris Remick. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Hamon made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to move Jerimiah Schultz from full-time to part-time July 18th unless he has moved within the 20-mile radius as stated in the ordinance. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Newbold made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Michelle Neff Village Clerk
Joe Behnken Village President