

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 Trustees Wilson, Geppert, Feder, Newbold, and Politsch. Trustee Hamon was absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, and Leo Simburger, Chief of Police.

VISITORS

None.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the previous board meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the board minutes as corrected. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken reported that he is working to consolidate the chart of accounts. An activity-based costing system is being implemented to reflect the activity of funds more accurately. The goal is to have six solvent funds that break even. Clerk Amy Benwell is working to consolidate the bank accounts at Citizens.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Benwell and Superintendent Remick have started the MFT Expenditures Year End Report.

TREASURER'S TIME

The Treasurer's Report period ending December 31, 2021 will be presented at the next board meeting.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger reported that he is continuing to work on required audits. Trustee Feder inquired about Smithton Police Department's complimentary ride program for intoxicated drivers on New Years Eve. Chief Simburger will investigate the program and revisit at the October board meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick reported that more sewer jetting has been completed.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Greene was not present.

Mayor Behnken reported that the Village Ambulance response time is less than ten minutes on average. Medstar's response time can be thirty minutes. The Ambulance Division through December 2021 is positive \$22,000.00. Over a five-year period, the

Village will most likely break even. There was discussion of reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medicaid. Clerk Benwell will reach out to Director Greene for more information on annual reimbursement review. Trustee Geppert reported that we are down to two Ambulance Division personnel that reside in town.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Audit Committee reviewed the monthly bills prior to the meeting. Trustee Newbold requested the invoice from Larry's Electric Service in the amount of \$258.61 be submitted to insurance as part of the claim for the 2015 Impala. Clerk Benwell will submit the invoice to the Village insurance.

Trustee Newbold made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the payment of the monthly bills. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

The New Athens Fire District Ambulance contract was provided to the board for review. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the contract for 2022. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The Village of Lenzburg Ambulance Contract was provided to the board for review. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the contract for 2022. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Politsch expressed the need for advanced planning for future contracts to allot time for negotiation.

A quote for a full-size mattress, foundation, frame, and sofa totaling \$1217.00 from Russell Furniture in Staunton, IL was provided by Chief Simburger. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the purchase for the Ambulance Service. A vote was answered aye by all members present except for Trustee Wilson, who answered nay.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Mark Schreder has a proposal for a campground at the Marina. Mark will reach out to Superintendent Remick at the end of January/ early February to discuss. A committee meeting will be scheduled at the next regular board meeting to establish guidelines.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold spoke with Steve Ritter. Neither have received a call back from Weiss Monument.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch is preparing the ReBuild IL Downtown and Mainstreets Grant for submission. The application is due Monday, January 10, 2022.

The sidewalk grant expires June 30, 2022. Trustee Polistch and Clerk Benwell will reach out to Karen at DCEO to address reporting errors.

ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Property

Marina

- 1.) Chief Simburger reported the remaining boat would not be able to be moved, as the river is too low. The owner stated he would be using his friend's trailer to move the boat.
- 2.) Structure is currently being rebuilt. Electrical outlets need renovation.
- 3.) The Property Committee will schedule a meeting at the Marina when weather permits.

Streets & Alleys

- 1.) Sewer Cleanout Project- Eight blocks completed as of 10/04/21. Eighteen blocks completed as of 11/01/21. Twenty-three blocks completed as of 01/03/2022.
- 2.) Two quotes on the storm sewer collapse on 108 North Market were obtained. The repair will not be covered by insurance. The \$65,000.00 estimate would complete the whole run Market to Johnson, while the \$55,000.00 estimate would only be Market to the alley. Part of the cost is just the setup fees. Mayor Behnken recommended obtaining another bid and reaching out to Tim Pruett. John Feder offered to obtain

additional bids, conduct independent research, and potentially donate materials and services.

Grants & Improvements

None.

Other

- 1.) Trustee Newbold and Trustee Feder will arrange a meeting with the owner of the laundromat to discuss the ReBuild IL grant.
- 2.) Consider increasing Video Gaming Terminal Fees in June 2022.
- 3.) Report due to IDOT in January on 2021 MFT expenditures. Superintendent Remick will contact Josh at IDOT for more information.
- 4.) CDBG due 03/11/2022. Superintendent Remick will contact Tim Pruett to create a timeline.
- 5.) Ongoing vaccination clinics.

Other Plans and Issues

Marina

- 1.) Plans for the River House
- 2.) Plans for Boat Slip

Business Development

- 1.) Billy Cumberland (Steamboat Building) is not going to proceed until next Spring due to Covid-19 concerns. He is planning on six employees.
- 2.) We received an inquiry regarding Wade Boat Dealer building. There is interest in putting an RV Repair Facility in the building. Nothing will proceed until after May 2022.

Other

- 1.) Collection on Marina rent judgement. Discovery of assets petition filed 10/22/2021 with St. Clair County Clerk. Citation to discover assets set for 12/06/21 was postponed due to Smith's wife having COVID-19. Smith offered \$40,000.00 to settle, offer was good until 12/06/2021. Smith will not agree to cease all current and future litigation.
- 2.) Village of New Athens v. Napier Citizens Bank; included as defendant because they have a mortgage on the property. They advised us they are not going to appear and realize their lien will be extinguished.
- 3.) Employees request to buy service time credits with IMRF. Mayor Behnken sent cost worksheet to IMRF for review. Clerk Benwell working with IMRF to correct employee estimates after Matt Ridlen received his letter with errors.
- 4.) Mayor Behnken is working with Soulshyne Solar on feasibility of solar generation of electricity and sell back to Ameren. Mayor Behnken and

Trustee Newbold had a meeting, waiting for written proposal. Chris met with Soulshyne Representative at sewer plant.

Streets and Alleys

- 1.) Trustee Geppert and Trustee Politsch submitted a list to Superintendent Remick of fifty locations whereby sidewalks need repair.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President