

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 and Superintendent Remick were absent. Also present were Leo Simburger, Chief of Police and Andrew Green, Ambulance Service Director.

**VISITORS**

Officer Brad Penet was present for observation.

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

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Nothing to report.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Village Clerk Benwell reported that she and Superintendent Remick are working with the University of Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Center to complete energy audits to identify opportunities. IPRF will be doing a payroll audit on 03/03/2022. One building permit has been issued for new home construction.

**TREASURER'S TIME**

The Treasurer's Report summarized that the Village had a \$69,000.00 surplus in January, largely due to the Marina lawsuit settlement of \$56,463.00. All kpi's are up. There is a \$242,000.00 surplus through January 31, 2022. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the monthly Treasurer's report. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Simburger presented a contract for slip rental for the remaining boat at the Marina. It was noted that the contract should be limited in length. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the contract. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Newbold suggested a committee meeting March 2 with interested parties in attendance to discuss parameters for the Marina.

Chief Simburger reported that after auditing the CenCom bill, the invoice is corrected.

Chief Simburger requested to purchase a new computer system from Computype for

\$1058.00. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve the purchase. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Superintendent Remick was absent. Clerk Benwell requested approval of Superintendent Remick's participation in Parkson on Site SBR Training at the Sewer Plant for \$2,000.00. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the training. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Director Green reports there has been an influx of applicants. There was a discussion concerning access to the statistical components of the ambulance software. Director Green will follow up with Clerk Benwell.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

Nothing to report.

**WATER AND SEWER**

A request was made to purchase a Fairbanks End Suction Pump seal with onsite installation for \$4145.00. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the purchase. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**PERSONNEL, PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA**

A recommendation to hire EMT Nathaniel Neace was made by the committee. Trustee Politsch made a motion, seconded by Trustee Newbold to hire Nathaniel Neace, effective 02/22/2022. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The committee presented a training agreement for EMT applicants wishing to be reimbursed for tuition. Director Green will have a screening process in conjunction with the agreement. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the Ambulance Training Agreement. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A request was made to purchase Lexipol Software for the Ambulance Service to manage compliance, CEUs, and training records. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder to purchase the software for \$1320.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The committee met on February 15, 2022. An increase in the utility tax to fund the Ambulance Service was discussed. It was decided to hold off for now. EMTs are to notify CenCom if two EMTs are not on duty at any given time so another agency can be sent out immediately. A meeting will be held with the New Athens Fire District to discuss finances.

The committee recommended changing LT. Buehler from salaried to hourly. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to make Lt. Buehler an hourly employee. A vote was answered aye by all members present. Chief Simburger discussed providing Lenzburg with police protection as well as potentially having all full-time officers. He will run an advertisement in the Freeburg Tribune for both full-time and part-time officers. Another committee meeting will be held.

The issue of derelict buildings was discussed. The laundromat was identified as being unsafe and unsanitary. The committee reported that the broken front door poses a safety hazard. After discussion, it was decided that a citation would not be issued at this time.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

The Village received a letter from Blake Behme Links Raney, P.C. concerning the Napier house. The board stated that prosecution will be waived for 90 days to allow the owner time to work on the property.

**CEMETERY**

Steve Kinzinger will be signing the contract for mowing the cemetery. Clerk Benwell to follow up.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Resolution No. 2021-12, Council Resolution of Support for CDBG ADA Sidewalks was presented. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Resolution No. 2021-12, with a Village commitment of \$15,000.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The Village is no longer wholly considered low to moderate income. An income survey will need to be done in June.

**ORDINANCES**

Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Trustee Newbold will be obtaining dates for the next COVID Vaccine Clinic.

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

Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Public Property**

**Marina**

Chief Leo sent a letter to the remaining boat owner advising him we are charging rent. Renovation continues electrical outlets and rebuilding the structure. The Property Committee will be scheduling a meeting at the Marina.

**Streets & Alleys**

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. Twenty-four blocks completed as of 02/07/22.

Quote on water line collapse 108 North Market. \$65k estimate- not covered by insurance. John Feder will research repairing the line in-house using a remote model car. Springfield Plastics came, will be getting a price back to John.

**Other**

John and Steve met with the owner of the laundromat, Jim 01/13/22; they are scheduling a second meeting.

Consider increasing Video Gaming Terminal Fees in June 2022.

**Other Plans and Issues**

Trustee Geppert requested approval to purchase curtains for the Ambulance shed. A motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold to purchase curtains for \$50.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Feder requested meter information for streetlights in town as part of the solar energy project. Clerk Benwell will follow up with Ameren bill information.

**Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk  
Joe Behnken, Village President