

4.1

6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Behnken. A roll call was answered aye by Trustees Feder, Newbold, and Fitzgerald. Trustees Geppert, Kearns and Politsch were absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works and Tim Buehler, Chief of Police.

**VISITORS**

Edwin L. Cockrell, Jr.

Mr. Cockrell was present to observe the meeting.

**READING THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes from the December 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was presented to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Behnken reported that St. Clair Service Company is wanting to put a modular building up as their office. They will be removing several buildings on the property. After a brief discussion, the Board concurred that St. Clair Service could move forward with the requested improvements.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Nancy Ritter updated the Board on the status of the credit card and IL ePay situation. She noted that there have been several issues with getting the machine set up and getting the proper training lined up. There was an issue with the credit card machine not being set up correctly for what we need to use it for and that had to be resolved through IL ePay. Once the machine was set up, Denise McClung, from the Illinois Treasurer's office came in to do training and found that the IL ePay set up on our website was not correct. Everything is supposed to be up and running by the beginning of February. There will be training with L.O.C.I.S. on this after we do the next water billing.

**TREASURER'S TIME**

The Treasurer was not present.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log for December as well as an annual report for 2024.

Buehler requested to postpone the awards presentation for Powell and Renner due to the weather. He would like to do the presentation at the next regular board meeting.

The Board previously met to interview Brandon Ottens for the full-time police position. It was recommended to hire him. Buehler stated that a drug test will be administered before Ottens starts.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to hire Brandon Ottens as a full-time police officer. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The police department will need to purchase software to redact faces from their body cameras if video from those cameras would be asked for under the Freedom of Information Act. The cost for the software is \$1,500 per year through 10-8 Video.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the purchase of the facial recognition redaction software from 10-8 Video in the amount of \$1,500 per year. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Chris Remick noted that his department plowed on Sunday and Monday.

Remick stated that he spoke with Rachel Heaton with the Illinois EPA regarding low interest loans. He mentioned that some of the infrastructure in town needs serious repairs, such as the waterlines on Clinton St. These loans can sometimes have a percentage of forgiveness on them and the loans can be as long as 40 years.

Remick suggested the mayor download the application to see if we qualify for this loan. Mayor Behnken said the deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> and would require an engineer's seal. He noted that this application would be a pre-loan application for 2026.

There was a brief discussion regarding billboards. Remick said he cannot find anything in the ordinance book if they are allowed or not. He did not know if the Board would want to add an ordinance stating if they are allowed or not. It was decided to discuss at a later date, if needed.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

The monthly bills were submitted to the Audit Committee for review of payment.

Trustee Feder said they did not have a problem with the bills except for one from Volkert. It was discussed that they were not satisfied with the engineering of the sidewalk on Spotsylvania St. Feder said he thought there was supposed to be a meeting set up with Volkert to go over any deficiencies with the project. Mayor Behnken said there will be a preliminary and final punch out meeting. No dates have been set yet. Behnken will reach out to Volkert. Trustee Fitzgerald felt that the bill should still be paid.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the monthly audit, except for the bill from Volkert Engineering in the amount of \$36,891.26. A vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Trustee Fitzgerald who voted nay.

Mayor Behnken said he wanted to put in his vote to change the outcome of the final vote. He said he votes nay. There was a discussion and disagreement about whether he could do this or not. Behnken said he would rescind his vote.

**WATER AND SEWER**

Nothing to report.

**PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

The lease for the ambulance shed was presented to the Board and was signed by MedStar. Mayor Behnken noted that on page three there are two dates that need to be changed from 2026 to 2027.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve and accept the ambulance shed lease with MedStar Ambulance Service, with the noted date corrections. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Information about a pickleball court was discussed. The cost for the items would be \$2,462.70. The Public Works Department would be able to assemble and the funds for this can be taken from the marina/campground account.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the purchase of the items for a pickleball court in the amount of \$2,462.70 and to have the funds taken out of the marina/campground bank account. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

New rental rates for the campground have been established. The cost per day would be \$30, \$175 per week and \$600 per month.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the rental rate increase for the campgrounds. The daily rate would be \$30, the weekly rate would be \$175, and the monthly rate would be \$600. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Ordinance 2024-13 was presented regarding storage containers. There was a discussion as to what areas in town it is permitted or not and about people who already have one, if they should be grandfathered in. It was discussed that there is not enough information to make a vote on the subject matter.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to table the vote for Ordinance 2024-13 until the next meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Resolution 2024-15 was presented regarding using the funds from the campground bank account to offset the cost for utilities, maintenance, and improvements to the campground area. Funds for labor would not come out of this account.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-15**, authorizing the use of funds from the campground bank account to be used to pay for utilities, maintenance, and improvements at the campgrounds. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

Ordinance 2024-14 was presented to the Board regarding the Grocery Retailer's Occupation Tax at 1%.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve **ORDINANCE 2024-14** regarding Grocery Retailer's Occupation Tax. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Village Clerk