

July 1, 2024

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

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

**VISITORS**

Visitors included Justin Majzel, organizer of New Athens Homecoming. Justin discussed the success of this year's homecoming. The Village banner was in front of the Banana Bike Brigade. He requested the Village to be a sponsor of the banner for \$500. The board agreed we could not vote on it since it was not on the agenda for this meeting, so they decided to put it on the next meeting agenda. Alex Swyear is available to set up rides in the autumn at the marina, so Justin is considering hosting a fall festival on September 12-14, 2024. The fire department is not going to have any further kickball tournaments. Justin needs board approval to use the property at the marina and the board said they would consider it.

**READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes of the June 17, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Nothing to report.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Paula reported that Computype came in and installed the new computers in the office for both clerks.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief submitted the activity log for the month of June. He reported that the police department did get approval for the \$11,975 grant for the body cams and three car cams. Officer Cody Powell's fingerprints and paperwork are back. He is now enrolled in the 80-hour transition course in September. He will be a part-time officer until he passes said program. He can work up to one thousand hours as a part time officer. Decision was made to discontinue ads for additional police officers. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch to purchase the refurbished Stalker Radar for the new police cruiser for \$895, which will be paid for out of the police restricted fund. It was seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to purchase a software server for \$2,094.80 from St. Clair County to house at secure county location for identification research purposes. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Chris reported oil and chipping date is scheduled for August 5, 2024. The old electrical structure has been torn down at the marina. The public works employees have been working hard to get the streets patched and cleaning up around the marina area.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

### STREETS AND ALLEYS

American Tree has given a quote for tree removal at 104 N. Johnson of \$1400, and the resident is responsible for half of the cost. That does not include stump grinding. Chris said we can always rent a stump grinder to grind the stumps around town.

### FINANCE AND AUDIT

Trustee Newbold made a motion to approve payment of bills in the audit, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Discussion regarding the Tax Anticipation/Working Capital loan with First National Bank of Waterloo. Mayor reported the loan would have to be paid off in 12 months. The interest we would pay on a Tax Anticipation loan would be tax exempt from income tax. The rate would be 6.8%. If it is taxable, the rate would be 8.5%. The mayor would like to have this in place prior to beginning the Spotsylvania resurfacing project because the reimbursement is not clear as far as which expenses are paid straight from the state to the contractor. Any use would be subject to board approval and the amount is capped at \$200,000. Motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to table discussion until the July 15<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting, in order to clarify if the interest is taxable or not. The mayor says the bank is waiting on their answer from their attorneys. The letting is going to be August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Chris did report Moore Asphalt is not capable of submitting a bid on the project. Further discussion on how the loan will work. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

### WATER AND SEWER

Chris reported Matt installed another case of water meters last week (8). We have done approximately 300 since we began replacing them in the last 5 years.

### PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

### PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Trustee Newbold discussed the lease agreements for the doctors at the medical center. They were automatically extended by a year, according to the agreements. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to offer new contracts to them both at an increase of 3% each, seconded by Trustee Feder, beginning November 1, 2024, to expire on October 30, 2025. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present. Trustee Feder questioned if anyone had heard anything about the old nursing home property. The only permit the owner, Ed Braun, has obtained is the electrical permit. Discussion on zoning SR4 single family residence with no variance. Mayor said under certain circumstances we could do an overlay. Even an overlay would take board approval. No one ever came to the board to present their plans. Trustee Politsch questioned if we should send him a letter informing him of the need to have a discussion in regard to zoning issues. Mayor said he would contact Ed Braun and let him know the board needs to meet with him.

### CEMETERY

Cemetery looks nice as the mowers are doing a good job.

### ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Trustee Politsch reported that the St. Clair County grant reimbursement has arrived.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

Nothing to report.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

**CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:35 p.m. by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector