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August 5, 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, Feder and Geppert. Absent were Trustees Kearns and Fitzgerald. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Police Chief Tim Buehler and Police Officer Cody Powell.

VISITORS

Visitors included Justin Majzel, organizer of New Athens Homecoming.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the July 15, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting and dispense with the oral reading following an addition of an address where a tree is to be removed. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken requested an emergency vote due to the time sensitive situation with the affluent actuator. Chris reported that it is going out and it is better to replace the actuator motor for \$3985 and the additional cost of \$1500 includes installation and programming. Since there is a 10-12 week delivery, we need to act now. If it goes out prior to the new one being installed, Chris can take tank #2 out of service for a brief time. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to proceed with the purchase, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Geppert, Feder, Politsch and Newbold. The total cost will be \$5485.00. Chris said if anyone ever has any questions or wants to go out there to see what the actuator does, he would be happy to show them. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch to purchase the third party pay processing module from LOCiS (for EPay) for \$500, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Paula will begin getting it installed and ready to go as soon as possible.

Following discussion, motion was made to accept the bid from Dean Deterding to remove one tree and to trim the other two next to the Village Hall for \$4130.00, by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A roll call vote of aye was answer by trustees present.

Mayor discussed the financial affairs report, and presented the estimated cash position by category, restricted and nonrestricted for fiscal year end. Focusing on the nonrestricted funds, he explained the forecast to fund the perpetuating losses. We will not be able to sustain the continuing operating losses and money set aside for infrastructure, preventive maintenance and equipment replacement. Mayor then gave an update on MedStar real estate agreement, stating it is like the medical center lease agreement in that the village will be responsible for building maintenance and MedStar will be responsible for utilities. Van Lear Eckert is reviewing the agreement.

VILLAGE CLERK

Paula reported that there are still two trustees and one employee who are not participating in direct deposit. She requested Trustee Feder to submit a waiver if he no longer desires to receive payments; we will have to have it in writing with his signature.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief submitted the activity log for July. He reported that we have sold the 2015 Chevy Impala for \$3950.00 on Govdeals.com. The new SUV arrived. They experienced a couple of issues, but Morrow Bros. fixed the problems. He is asking for permission to take two vehicles to the racetrack for the August 17th event Indy Car Series Bommarito Group 500 to honor fallen officers. Entire board consented for him to take the two vehicles there. Mayor asked if we were going to put decals on the new vehicles. Chief would prefer them all decal. Trustee Newbold questioned some of the issues in town with broken windows and doors on certain buildings and tall grass, etc. Chief has submitted a work order to board up the windows. He is still requesting the broken door on the old laundromat to be repaired or boarded up.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

He shared details on some of the issues we encountered due to the recent heavy rainfall. We had to rent an emergency pump, and someone loaned one for free. Our pumphouse was struggling to keep up. Without the pumps, we would have lost the pumphouse. Public Works employees worked extra hours to help keep up with everything. Chris is requesting to purchase another pump if this occurs again. Nu Way quoted the cost of a new Trash Pump for \$1693.20. Another new person, Mark Saul, has applied for the vacant seasonal position. Chris would like to bring him on. Arlene announced they are putting a packet together to submit to FEMA. We may be reimbursed for some of the labor overtime cost and the cost of the pump rental; however, it may be the first of next year before we receive reimbursement. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the purchase of the new Trash Pump. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Chris reported that the oil and chipping has been completed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Motion was made to approve the bills as presented by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Justin Majzel was here to discuss the Fall Carnival on September 12-14, 2024. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the village furnishing police protection, dumpsters and waive the park rent. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Trustee Politsch questioned if the one spot in the entrance needs to be filled in due to the "dip" in the pavement and Chris does not feel it needs to be repaired.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Mayor discussed how the costs have gone up on the Spotsylvania Resurfacing project. Trustee Newbold questioned if we could cut something to help keep costs down. Killian came in with the lowest bid. Trustee Feder asked if the mayor had seen a copy of the plans, and he stated he has. Chris said he has a copy of the plans if anyone would like to view them.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Arlene explained that 4 of the 5 missing air cylinders have been found and AirGas has been notified. She requested the board to approve paying for the one missing air cylinder. They all agreed that we should and approved that the bill gets paid as soon as received. She is also working on getting the appropriate information to FEMA regarding the recent flooding.

MARINA

Trustee Politsch requested to remove 6.10.1, Vote to contract with Roverpass for phone support as we already have phone support with them. She also reported that campers are receiving refunds for the days they had to vacate the campground due to flooding issues. Two campers have already been refunded. All campers were very understanding during the evacuation. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve refunds to campers accordingly. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve Resolution No. 2024-05, MFT Resolution-Engineering Cost, Spotsylvania. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve Ordinance No. 2024-06, Ordinance Regulating Public Camping Within Corporate Boundaries and Other Actions in Connection Therewithfor the Village of New Athens. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve Resolution No. 2024-06, Adopting the St. Clair County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, second by Trustee Geppert, to approve Ordinance No. 2024-05, Ordinance Authorizing the Repeal of the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve Ordinance No. 2024-07, Ordinance Establishing the Office of Zoning Hearing Officer and Delegating Authority to Such Office. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve Van Lear Eckert as Zoning Administrator and compensate him at the village attorney normal hourly rates. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor reported that he has never heard back from any of the developers of the old nursing home. The village attorney has not had any contact with their attorney. Trustee Feder questioned the rezoning of the building next door to village hall. The use of a variance is easier when changing the zoning. Trustee Feder questioned how much money is in the various Fidelity accounts. Mayor stated between \$400,000-\$500,000. If we take money out prior to maturity, there's a penalty and lost interest. Mayor said we may have to borrow money on the Spotsylvania project. Mayor scheduled a special Board meeting for August 8, 2024, to further discuss the Spotsylvania project.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:48 p.m. by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector