

August 19, 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, Fitzgerald and Geppert. Absent was Trustee Kearns. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, and Police Chief Tim Buehler.

Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to move item 6.2.1., FYE Audit Presentation up to be presented following approval of minutes. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

VISITORS

Visitors included Brian Otten, from Scheffel Boyle.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the August 5, 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. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. The minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 22, 2024, were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

6.2.1. Brian Otten presented the review of the Village Audit for Fiscal Year End, April 2024. He walked the board through the Auditor’s Report. The Village received high marks in the report. He reviewed the various funds and pointed out a few items and reviewed the balances in certain funds, restricted and unrestricted. He reviewed the expenditures and various income and explained how they affected the overall financial situation. Brian discussed the operating expenses and income from Water & Sewer and the Ambulance funds. He then reviewed investment income and loan payments. He reviewed the TIF funds. He informed us that the State Comptroller’s Report is not completed yet, and it is due October, 2024. The management letter reviewed the water loss for the year, which is higher than most other towns on average. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to accept the Auditor’s Report as it stands. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor stated that there is an error on the address of 5.1.1. It should be 1105 S. Mill St. The 502 Johnson St. property is still between tax buyers that have walked away from the deal so the village won’t be able to take possession of that until July of 2026. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to obtain a judicial deed on the property at 1105 S. Mill. After some discussion regarding costs related to the judicial deed, a vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to accept the real estate lease with Medstar Ambulance. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Mayor discusses the Water Loss Report. He stated that the loss has increased by 50%. He, again, is stating we need to purchase new water meters. Chris stated that Matt has replaced 128 meters so far this calendar year and he feels we are making progress by changing the meters out in this manner. His theory is that we can absorb the cost by doing it this way. He tracks the usage every 24 hours, and it has gotten better but still not what it should be. He explained various methods of water loss, i.e. joint leaks, etc. He feels the meters are not the main reason we are losing water, but they are a small part of the problem. He stated to really fix this issue, is to replace all the water lines. Trustee Politsch requested that Chris get a quote on what it would cost to have a

third party install the rest of the water meters. He stated that he has quotes from the last time he inquired about this.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy shared the summary of the Treasurer's report with everyone. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to accept the Treasurer's report as it stands. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief submitted the activity log for the first half of August. He and Jake Renner attended the race on Saturday. He has a candidate for a vacant part time position.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Chris discussed the report from Pittsburgh Tank and Tower on the condition of our water tower. There are some critical deficiencies that need to be addressed. The total for everything on their list is \$105,000.00. He recommends not all items need to be done right away but did recommend replacing the roof vent and screen. This is not on the agenda this week but wanted to bring it to the board's attention. He requested that it be placed on the next meeting agenda. The mayor stated we have no reserves set aside for such maintenance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the two transfers as listed. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Nothing to report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, to approve Resolution No. 2024-08, Illinois Funds EPAY Resolution. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No word from the people who are working on the old nursing home building. Trustee Feder questioned who is dealing with the old schoolhouse. Chris reported sometimes the village mows, sometimes someone else shows up to mow. Chief has sent letters to the owner. Village Attorney Van Lear Eckert instructed him to not send citations due to not knowing exactly to whom to send them. The owner supposedly lives in Washington, D.C., but Chief is not sure of the rightful owner. Chris would like to be involved with the Spotsylvania Resurfacing project, because there are things his department needs to do, such as repair a sewer, but does not want to do it until the project begins. The fog line on Van Buren needs restriped because it is fading and he felt it could be done the same time.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:31 p.m. by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector

