

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 aye by Trustees Newbold, Politsch, Feder, and Geppert. Trustees Fitzgerald and Kearns were absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police and Patrolman Jason Berry.

**VISITORS**

Todd & Becky Davis and Steve & Pam Woodward

Todd & Becky Davis were present to discuss getting water and sewer on their property at 2875/2879 State Rt 13.

It was recommended to discuss this further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> with the property owners present.

Steve & Pam Woodward were present regarding the windows at the old village hall. This discussion will be held under Public Properties.

**READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes from the September 16, 2024 regular board meeting was submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2024 regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Nothing to report

**VILLAGE CLERK**

The annual renewal quote for the employee health insurance through BlueCross BlueShield was presented to the Board. The plan runs from December 1, 2024 to November 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the BlueCross BlueShield employee health insurance plan for December 1, 2024 to November 30, 2025. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The New Athens High School asked if the Village would purchase an ad for VESPA, their annual yearbook. Last year the Village purchased a \$30.00 ad.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to purchase an ad for the New Athens High School yearbook in the amount of \$30.00. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**TREASURER'S TIME**

Not present.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log.

Buehler mentioned that Officer Berry is taking an on-line Juvenile Officer training.

Buehler himself, did a webinar regarding school threats/resources.

The police department will receive a grant to purchase three bulletproof vests. A grant for the new level of tasers was approved from the State of Illinois ILEAS program. Officer Berry is currently the trainer for tasers and will be attending a class to be certified with the new taser program.

Chief Buehler requested an item to be added to the October 28<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole agenda. Buehler and Sgt Renner will be present, along with a representative from the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department to discuss something with the Board. It was noted that this will be done in executive session.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Chris Remick stated that he would like to use the property across from the old cemetery as a rock yard. He stated that IDOT has given the okay to build a salt shed as well. There was some discussion as to how this will be paid for. The Board requested Remick get more information before moving forward with this.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

The monthly bills were submitted for approval of payment.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the payment of the monthly bills. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A report of transfers was presented to the Board. There were two transfers; \$21,315.98 from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Ambulance Fund to the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank General Fund for the DCEO grant and the \$11,975.00 from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Ambulance Fund to the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank General Fund for a police grant.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the transfers as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**WATER AND SEWER**

Chris stated that he needs an ammonia tester and multi-parameter meter to test ammonia levels. He was doing the testing once a month but now has to do it two times a week.

The cost for the ammonia tester is \$1,121.00 and the meter is \$4,540.05.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the purchase of an ammonia tester in the amount of \$1,121.00. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the purchase of a multi-parameter meter in the amount of \$4,540.05. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**PERSONNEL**

The Deputy Clerk position was offered to Jessica Weidemann with a starting pay of \$18.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to hire Jessica Weidemann as Deputy Clerk with a starting wage of \$18.00 per hour. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

It was recommended to hire George Mokriakow as a part-time police officer.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder, to hire George Mokriakow as a part-time police officer. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

The Board discussed with Steve and Pam Woodward that the Public Works employees will install the windows at the old village hall.

Steve stated that he was going to order the windows through Hi-Way Lumber but they no longer order windows. Chris Remick suggested they check with Millstadt Glass.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to allow the Historical Society to purchase windows for the old village hall and to have the Public Works Department install them. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A bill from Jeff Tucker in the amount of \$615.00, was turned in for electric work that was done at Okaw Valley Park before the Fall Carnival.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the bill from Jeff Tucker in the amount of \$615.00. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Trustee Politsch noted that she will be working on the park grant.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

Remick noted that they had removed six dumpsters of material from the marina/riverhouse.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Ordinance 2024-09 was presented regarding the adoption of the new Village Code.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, adopting **ORDINANCE 2024-09**, regarding the new Village Code. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

Resolution 2024-10 was presented amending the Deputy Clerk's wage to \$18.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-10**, amending the Deputy Clerk's wages to \$18.00 per hour. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Resolution 2024-11 was presented authorizing the application process for the St. Clair County Park Grant, Cycle 30.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-11**, applying for the St. Clair County Park Grant, Cycle 30. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk