

OCTOBER 16, 2023,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

7.0

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, Kearns, Geppert and Feder. Trustee Fitzgerald was absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police and Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer.

It was noted that Swyear Amusement was no longer going to set up in New Athens as they have decided to set up in Freeburg.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to accept the cancellation of Swyear Amusement's plan to set up rides at the park in town. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Mayor Behnken suggested moving up the presentation from Irby Utilities.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to move up the presentation from Irby Utilities. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Devin Peterson and Larry Parker, with Irby Utilities, gave a presentation on new water meters.

Peterson and Parker gave a brief history of the company and the meters. It was said that the failure rate for their meters is 1/2 of a percent. The warranty on the meters is 20 years for accuracy and 10 years for the battery. They stated that their system will help detect leaks and is compatible with L.O.C.I.S.

After the presentation, the mayor stated that the board would have to do some deliberating on the matter before making a decision.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the September 18th and October 2nd regular board meetings as well as the September 12th and September 25th Committee of the Whole meetings were submitted for approval. It was noted that on the September 18th minutes under Improvements and Grants, there was an error in the wording of what was stated. It read that the board was going to table some of the grants but what is should have read was that the board was going to table the use of the St. Clair County Park Grant.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2023, regular board meeting with the noted correction. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2023, regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

The new employee health insurance plan was presented. The plan is from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The plan is called S534 Silver, Option 1.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the employee health insurance plan from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, S534 Silver plan, Option 1. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

VILLAGE CLERK

The Village Clerk was not present.

TREASURER'S TIME

The Treasurer's monthly report was submitted for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the monthly treasurer's report as submitted. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

It was recommended to purchase a car camera for the new F150 police cruiser. The cost would be \$2,604.00 from 10-8 Video.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to purchase a car camera from 10-8 Video in the amount of \$2,604.00. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Chief Buehler submitted the monthly activity log and discussed grants for body cameras.

Buehler also noted that they still have not received applications for officers. He posted ads in multiple papers.

There was a brief discussion regarding recent fraud activities on a village account.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick gave a map of our waterlines to Nelson Matter, which is a company that does water leak detections. After they review the map, they will give a quote for their services.

Remick noted that Roger with Illinois Rural Water checked some of the fire plugs in town and found that one by the school was leaking. The plug will need to be replaced.

Remick stated that a sewer main needs to be repaired at Van Buren St. and Spotsylvania St. He is to get prices for contracting out.

OCTOBER 16, 2023,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

This past Saturday there was a waterline blowout at the campground that was fixed and on Sunday there was a power outage at the campground.

There was a brief discussion regarding the trees in the retention pond near the park. Remick said the Corp of Engineers would like the trees out. It was noted that the area in question is a wetland so the soil cannot be removed.

Remick asked the board if they would like to sell the old trailer. Trustee Newbold suggested keeping it for a year and if they do not use it anymore, then sell it.

Remick requested the board approve to hire Lamondo Braggs, Jr. for the seasonal public works position.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Kearns, to hire Lamondo Braggs, Jr. for the seasonal part-time public works position. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

The board was supposed to vote on increasing the ambulance rates. It was decided to table the vote and discuss the matter at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on October 23rd.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder, to table the vote for increasing the ambulance rates until after the October 23rd Committee of the Whole meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Nothing to report.

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

OCTOBER 16, 2023,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

Trustee Feder said that the fire department would like to have a lighted Christmas parade the Friday after Thanksgiving. They wanted to know if there were any permits needed to do this. It was suggested to check the ordinance book to see if a permit is required.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Poltisch, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk