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

**VISITORS**

Mark Schreder

Mark Schreder was present regarding a storage container that has been sitting on a property in his subdivision. He reviewed the online ordinance and could not find in the current ordinance where this is not allowed. He asked if this was something the Board was going to leave as is. Trustee Feder recommended the Board review the ordinance and discuss it further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

**READING THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes from October 21, 2024, regular board meeting was submitted to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2024, regular board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Nothing to report.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Nothing to report.

**TREASURER'S TIME**

Not present.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log for the second half of October.

Mayor Behnken stated that a motion needed to be made to approve Sgt Jake Renner to be enrolled in a St. Clair County illegal drugs detention training program. This was presented to the Board at the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve Sgt. Jake Renner to enroll with St. Clair County for an illegal drugs detention training program. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The police department requested the purchase of taser equipment in the amount of \$15,686.00. This will be reimbursed by a preapproved grant. Also, there is a five year warranty on the equipment that cost \$1,208.20 per year after the first year.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the purchase of the taser equipment in the amount of \$15,686.00 that will be reimbursed by a grant, as well as the five-year warranty for \$1,208.20 for each year of the warranty after the first year. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Chris Remick mentioned that his department has been cleaning ditches and pumping the storm sewers with all the rain.

He noted that the rain has deterred the work being done on Spotsylvania St.

Mayor Behnken suggested a motion be made regarding the expansion of the material storage area that was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the expansion of the material storage area per the diagram that Superintendent Remick gave the Board at the 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**

The Audit Committee met prior to the regular board meeting to review the monthly bills.

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

**WATER AND SEWER**

The Board previously discussed a property owned by Todd Davis, whereas he requested to be allowed to connect into the village's water system. Chris Remick noted that Davis would have to apply for the permits per IDOT before the Village would start anything.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to allow Todd Davis to connect to our water system after IDOT permits are satisfied. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Mayor Behnken said he reviewed the September 2024 water loss report and is in preliminary discussions with an organization called EJP Smart Utilities Professional for Sustainable Partner Programs. He said we would not have to put out a lot of money up front but he will not know what is all involved until he gets the information.

**PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

Nothing to report.

**CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE**

Mayor Behnken reminded the Board that the new code of ordinances is officially on the Village's website. He stated that we only have three books in the building and if the Board is interested in more it would cost \$177.00 for each book and each person that has a book must keep it maintained.

It was mentioned to review the ordinance regarding storage containers.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Trustee Politsch is still working on the park grant. She said Remick is getting prices on a mower, and she is still waiting for information regarding the ball diamonds.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Ordinance 2024-10 was presented to the Board regarding the increase in the local sales tax. The Board had previously approved the increase, and the ordinance is ready for passage.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve **ORDINANCE 2024-10** to increase the local sales tax by ½ percent. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Trustee Feder, who voted Nay.

Ordinance 2024-11 was presented regarding the tax anticipation warrant. It was noted that the Board previously voted on the resolution for this, but it was supposed to be in ordinance form, so this is the replacement.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve **ORDINANCE 2024-11** regarding the tax anticipation warrant. A roll call vote was answered aye by all members present.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee Geppert stated that she received a quote from Onsolve, which is for the emergency telephone notification system. She noted that our current system has not been updated for a while. This would be due by December 15, 2024.

November 4, 2024,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

It was recommended to discuss further at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Trustee Newbold asked Trustee Geppert if there was any new information regarding the practical nurse being placed at the medical center. Geppert stated that she has not heard anything since the initial discussion.

Chris Remick asked the Board if they were going to discuss the water tower issues. Trustee Newbold stated that they have decided to wait until next spring to discuss further.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk