

7:30 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 Wilson, Feder, Newbold, Politsch, and Kearns. Trustee Geppert was absent. Also present were Leo Simburger, Chief of Police, Sandy Stolte, Treasurer, and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

VISITORS

Sally Wetzel and Thomas Garcia were present for observation. Jeff Wetzel attended to address the board over a defamation issue.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the previous board meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the May 16, 2022 board minutes with a minor correction. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken reported that the State of Illinois is increasing Video Gaming Terminal Fees from \$25.00 to \$250.00 annually. Smithton and Freeburg have increased their fee to \$125.00. The Finance and Audit Committee will schedule a meeting at a later date to allow for public discussion on the matter.

The Mayor discussed the DCEO Spotsylvania Grant Award of \$515,000.00, with \$50,000.00 being the Village's share. The estimate from Volkert Engineering came back at roughly \$815,000.00, due primarily to the increase in oil prices and inflation. Upon discussion, the board agreed to move forward with the grant and begin the first three steps of the program.

The investment policy was discussed and resolutions will be presented at the next board meeting outlining investing the proceeds of matured CDs that were not renewed.

VILLAGE CLERK

Clerk Benwell requested permission to open a Mastercard through Casey's Business Line of Credit for Village use. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve opening the account. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

An Insurance Claim Process was presented by the Clerk following the recent filing of claims. The board agreed to submitting a form to Clerk Benwell when an insurance claim is to be filed. Several maintenance issues at the Medical Building were discussed. Chris Remick will follow up.

Clerk Benwell requested permission to host a “Yard of the Month” program in the Village. Residents may submit nominations for “Yard of the Month” with the winner earning a small prize. A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold to approve the purchase of two yard signs and the prizes for the program. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Clerk Benwell requested clarification of the policy regarding trash receptacles being left out as she has received several complaints from residents. After discussion, it was decided a new ordinance would be drafted outlining the policy.

TREASURER’S TIME

The redemption of CDs was discussed during the Treasurer’s portion of the meeting, with an up to date list of current CDs and recent redemptions being made available from Clerk Benwell.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger reported that at this time there are no suspects in the recent murder case outside of town. The Major Case Squad has been called in to handle the investigation. The concession stand at the ball diamond was recently broken into, but nothing was taken.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick informed the board that the Village Engineer stated that the Village owns from one sidewalk to the other sidewalk across the street. He also reported that the third SBR tank is now in service at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Jeff Tucker is working on phase one of the electric at the campground through Gilbert Electric.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The monthly bills were presented to the committee prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Kearns to approve payment of the monthly bills. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A resolution is to be prepared authorizing investing the proceeds of the first three CDs that were recently cashed to be invested in US Treasury Bills. The resolution will be presented at the next board meeting.

WATER AND SEWER

Superintendent Remick reported that a new motor contactor has been installed at the South Lift Station. He followed up on the Middendorf toilet issue, stating that after investigation, it appears to be a plumbing issue, not a village issue.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee recommended the hiring of Lawrence Andrew Wynn IV as a part-time Public Works employee, effective 06/07/2022. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to hire Mr. Wynn. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Politsch requested to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss a Personnel issue and a Public Property and Parks issue. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder to enter Executive Session at the end of the meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold indicated that he had discussed burial notifications with Steven Kinzinger. He also requested a notice regarding pet waste be posted to remind residents to cleanup after their pets while walking through the cemetery and other places.

ORDINANCES

There was a discussion regarding the tree ordinance. The need for ordinances addressing trash, the Bank of Belleville, and Fidelity investments was also discussed.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch recommended awarding the sidewalk contract to Huebner Concrete. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Kearns approving the contract for \$41,385.00 for sidewalk installation by Huebner Concrete. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE & ADA

The recipient of the EMT scholarship will be enrolling in the fall, as classes were full when he attempted to register for the summer session.

MARINA

There have not been any applicants for the Marina Development.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

The draft appropriation ordinance was presented by Mayor Behnken. June 13, 2022 a notice will be issued to the Freeburg Tribune, June 30, 2022 a public hearing will be held, and the final vote will occur on July 5, 2022.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Property

Marina

Chief Simburger sent the contract to the boat owner as well as an invoice for the first month's rent at the Marina. The owner informed Leo that he is having a company from Murphysboro move the boat.

The electrical outlet and structure renovation is two-thirds completed at the Marina. An electrician has been contracted. A ladder has been added and Ameren granted preliminary approval.

Trustee Newbold and Clerk Benwell advertised for RFI/P for Marina Development. The next step will be to invite qualified applicants to quote on the business.

Streets & Alleys

Sewer Cleanout Project- Eight blocks completed as of 10/04/21. Eighteen blocks completed as of 11/01/2021. Twenty-three blocks completed as of 01/03/2022. Twenty-four blocks completed as of 02/07/2022. Twenty-six blocks completed as of 03/21/2022. Thirty-one blocks completed as of 05/16/22.

Trustee Feder purchased the pipe needed to repair the water line collapse at 108 North Market. He will attempt to install it.

PUBLIC PROPERTY & PARKS

Matt Heet, a local drainage contractor, has offered to install a complete drainage system, when the soccer season is over, at Okaw Valley Park.

OTHER

Consider increasing video game terminals in June 2022. Smithton is considering increasing to \$125.00 per terminal.

Trustee Feder and Superintendent Remick will verify the contour of the terrain for the Klopmeier drainage complaint.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered Executive Session at 9:26pm to discuss a personnel issue and a public property and parks issue.

JUNE 06, 2022

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold to exit Executive Session at 9:55 pm and reenter regular session. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Kearns, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Amy Benwell, Village Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President