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, Wilson, Geppert and Feder. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Sandy Stolte, Village Treasurer and Andrew Green, Ambulance Director.

VISITORS

Devin Brown, Matt Ridlen and Mark Schreder were present for observation.

READINGOF THE JOURNAL(MINUTES)

There were no minutes for the January 3, 2023, meeting since a meeting was not held due to no quorum.

The minutes from the December 19, 2022 board meeting had been distributed for approval. There were some changes/corrections that needed to be made to those minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2022 board meeting with the changes/corrections that were sent out. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken presented the board with the December 2022 Financial Report prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the December 2022 Financial Report presented by the mayor. A vote was answered aye all members present.

Mayor Behnken brought up the applications for the Village Clerk and for Police Officers. This will be discussed further in executive session.

The mayor asked if the Village has received grant money for the Spotsylvania St. sidewalk. The Deputy Clerk stated that no money has been received yet as the grant has not been closed out. It was noted that all the final information should be gathered so the closing process of the grant could be completed.

Mayor Behnken questioned if the Village received a payment from Ameren per the incentive program. Superintendent Remick stated that the final report was just sent in a few weeks ago so it is too early to receive payment.

Mayor Behnken stated that the city of Maryville is donating Christmas decorations. He asked the board if there was an interest in them. Superintendent Remick stated that they don’t have storage space for extra decorations and that we do have extra snowflakes as it is.

Mayor Behnken stated that Trustee Politsch had done some research in the newly elected handbook that states you can make a negative motion. He noted that at a previous meeting he said it could not be done and said he stands corrected. With that in mind, he requested the board make a negative motion to not accept the decorations from Maryville.

A motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Kearns, to not accept the offer of donated Christmas decorations from the city of Maryville. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Mayor Behnken noted that he will be hosting a town hall meeting on February 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the New Athens Community Building at 406 Chester St. Ed Cockrell, who is a member of the St. Clair County Board as well as the New Athens Township Supervisor and Chairman of the Board with Kaskaskia Water District, will be present along with, Katie Main and possibly Kevin Schmidt. The meeting is to discuss local government activities/issues. He would like for the board to participate.

VILLAGECLERK

The Deputy Clerk had nothing to report.

TREASURER’STIME

The Treasurer had nothing to report.

POLICECHIEF

Chief Simburger was not present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick reported that Universal Blower will be out this week to look at the blower at the wastewater treatment plant. He stated that they may have to rebuild the blower. It was noted that a vote was not needed at this time as it would fall under ordinary operation expense.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green stated that he has been working with Mike Gilbert from Memorial Hospital regarding the coverage of Lenzburg. He stated that a system modification form was submitted and we are waiting for signed authorization from the State of Illinois.

REPORTOFSTANDINGCOMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

A resolution was presented regarding the IDOT road maintenance and budget for January 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. The mayor had changed the maintenance program from calendar year to fiscal year.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve RESOLUTION 2022-06, for the IDOT road maintenance and budget from January 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

A list of transfers was presented to the board. The list included: $9,848.00 on 11/30/22 from the General Checking to the Ambulance Checking to reconcile profit to cash fund; $28,862.79 on 11/30/22 from the General Checking to the Cemetery Checking to reconcile profit to cash fund and $75,000 on 01/03/23 from the General Checking to the Water and Sewer Checking to transfer for EPA loan payment.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to accept the transfers as listed. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATERANDSEWER

Mayor Behnken stated that the CDBG grant application is due by March 9, 2023. He stated that if the income surveys don’t work out we may be able to use the grant for ADA sidewalks.

Superintendent Remick noted that the booster pump for the wastewater treatment plant needs to be replaced. He received a quote from Cardinal Pump in the amount of $1,937.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder, to authorize the purchase of a new booster pump from Cardinal Pump in the amount of $1,937. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PERSONNEL

The board will go into executive session towards the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

An ordinance was prepared regarding revoking all committee meetings and having committee of the whole meetings instead. Trustee Geppert questioned the difference between the meetings. It was explained that currently, if a board member attends a committee meeting but is not on that committee, he or she is not allowed to speak; but at a committee of the whole meeting all board members are allowed to speak. It was noted that the committee of the whole meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the month unless an emergency comes up that they need to have one sooner.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Kearns, to approve ORDINANCE 2022-07, the revocation of standing committees and replaced with committee of the whole. A vote was answered aye by all members present, except for Trustee Geppert, who voted nay.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch noted that the Tree Board will be meeting this week.

Trustee Politsch also noted that the new playset for the park is in but will be held back until we are ready to install.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

The ambulance contract with the New Athens Fire Protection District was approved and signed by the fire district.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the ambulance contract with the New Athens Fire Protection District. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

MARINA

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Behnken asked about the progress with the campground. It was noted that work is still being done to get it in a suitable order.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to enter into executive session regarding personnel at 7:23 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:55 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

 Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk