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, Wilson, Geppert and Feder. Trustee Kearns was absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Amy Ohlendorf, Village Clerk and Andy Fauth, Village Treasurer.

VISITORS

Van Leer Eckert, Jake Renner, Timothy Jollenbeck, Deborah Jollenbeck and Richard Fitzgerald.

Deborah Jollenbeck said the cub scouts will be hosting a clothing drive and would like to put a receptacle at village hall. It was noted that if there was room for it and it was emptied regularly it shouldn’t be a problem.

READINGOF THE JOURNAL(MINUTES)

The minutes from the February 6, 2023 board meeting had been distributed for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023 board meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken welcomed the new Village Clerk, Amy Ohlendorf and the new Village Treasurer, Andy Fauth.

VILLAGECLERK

The Deputy Clerk and the Village Clerk had nothing to report.

TREASURER’STIME

The January Treasurer’s report was submitted by Mayor Behnken.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the January Treasurer’s report as was submitted by the Mayor. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICECHIEF

Chief Simburger was not present.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick noted that there was a fire plug leak on North St. Because of the location they had to hire Haier Services to help out. A boil order was issued for that area.

Remick noted that the new playground equipment is up but not completed yet.

The rebuilt blower was delivered this week and Remick will install himself.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present.

REPORTOFSTANDINGCOMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Mayor Behnken advised that the CDBG PY23 would need to be approved. The project description is the removal and replacement of sidewalks, including ramp construction, on the south side of Belsha St. between Jackson St. and Highland St.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the CDBG PY23 for the removal and replacement of sidewalks on the south side of Belsha St. between Jackson St. and Highland St. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Mayor presented the board with a list of transfers that were made on 12/31/2022. Those transfers were as follows:

$479.51 from Village Ambulance Checking Account to Village General Checking Account; $22,674.29 from Village General Checking Account to Village Cemetery Checking Account; $6,671.39 from Village General Checking Account to Village MFT Account and $48.92 from Village Water & Sewer Checking Account to Village General Checking Account.

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

WATERANDSEWER

Mayor Behnken received a call from Ryan Cullen, who is the owner of the New Athens Mobile Home Court, regarding a water break they had that resulted in a water bill in the amount of $5,372.99. He is asking to be allowed to make payments and that the penalties be waived. He would like the installments to be as follows: 02/16/23 $2,600; 03/16/23 $1,000; 04/16/23 $1,000 and 05/16/23 $700.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the payment installment plan for Ryan Cullen and to waive any penalties from that bill. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

PERSONNEL

It was noted that the Board previously discussed Devin Brown’s pay rate increase to be three months from his start date instead of six months and to receive 100% of current rate within six months of hire date. His pay rate will change from $19.43 per hour to $20.65 per hour effective 02/08/23; then to $24.29 per hour effective 05/08/23.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the pay rate increase for Devin Brown to $20.65 effective 02/08/23 and then to $24.29 effective 05/08/23. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

It was requested to retain Van Leer Eckert, who is an attorney, to advise the Board on personnel matters at his customary charges for services of this nature to be performed.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to retain Van Leer Eckert for legal services on personnel matters at his customary rate. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

There was a small discussion regarding the mileage for employee residency. Trustee Politsch said she would review the ordinance and bring to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold discussed the cemetery mowing contract with Steve Kinzinger, owner of Countryside Lawn Care. Kinzinger said that he would mow again this year but would have to raise his cost by 6%. It was suggested to have Kinzinger draw up a new contract.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch noted that the new playground equipment at Okaw Valley Park looks wonderful.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

A resolution was presented to the Board to amend the current wage resolution changing the Deputy Clerk’s hourly pay rate from $19.09 per hour to $20.09 per hour.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve RESOLUTION 2022-10, amending the current resolution for employee wages to change the hourly rate for the Deputy Clerk from $19.09 per hour to $20.09 per hour. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

A resolution was presented to the Board to appoint Amy Ohlendorf as the new Authorized Agent for IMRF.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve RESOLUTION 2022-07 appointing Amy Ohlendorf as the Authorized Agent for IMRF. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to enter into executive session regarding personnel at 6:58 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk