

May 6, 2024

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

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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 by Trustees Newbold, Politsch and Geppert. Trustees Fitzgerald, Feder and Kearns were absent. Also present were Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

**VISITORS**

No visitors were present.

**READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes of the April 15, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

The minutes of the Special Board meeting of April 11, 2024, were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the Special Board meeting minutes and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

The minutes of the Special Board meeting of October 17, 2023, were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the Special Board meeting minutes and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

Chief Buehler presented Officer Jason Berry with a certificate and a stork pin for the delivery of a baby in the Casey's parking lot recently.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor said he has a meeting soon with Betsy Witt from Volker Engineering, who has informed him we have a cost overrun on the Spotsylvania resurfacing project, that is estimated at \$264,000. She's having some senior partners review it and provide some final statements on it. If it is a significant amount of money, he would recommend we use restricted funds to pay the overrun. Those restricted funds would consist of the TIF funds and the business district funds. Those districts are part of the Spotsylvania project. Volkert may come up with some design changes, but then the changes would have to go back to IDOT. They have informed him that the August 2 letting is going to be tight for them. That is in 90 days. Mayor is disappointed with that suggestion. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch to approve signing of the Building and Zoning Agreement with St. Clair County, seconded by Trustee Geppert. This is a routine agreement that we sign every year. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Paula and Nancy both have concerns regarding the changing of the Water & Sewer and Trash penalty for late payment provisions. Paula explained that we have an ordinance in place that customers are still responsible for their water bills even if they do not receive them in the mail. This situation is not a problem due to Village Hall but the USPS is causing the problem. We give people the option of paying ahead on their bills. She offered anyone who would like to know the process of the water bills to explain it to them. We apply the penalty date on a certain day and moving the due date should be left alone. We send out pink cards to remind people that their bills are due. Trustee Newbold thought by doing so would alleviate the issues of the number of complaints we get, not create

even more problems. Trustee Politsch questioned the use of Locis. She suggested Illinois Epay. Paula suggested the option of debit or credit card use. Trustee Newbold made a motion to table this discussion, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Paula explained that Computype offered what is called "BDR", Backup Disaster Recovery, which is a piece of software that backs up our information every hour. It will cost an extra \$50 per month. She felt the more frequent backups would keep the Village information safer. It is available anytime if the board agrees we need it. She explained that we have another free cybersecurity option from a grant called CrowdStrike Falcon Complete. It is through the state of Illinois, and we have been approved, along with the police department, to receive the downloads. Computype will be downloading it in the next day or so. It is not a backup, rather extra protection to keep from being hacked.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

### **POLICE CHIEF**

Chief presented the activity log for the month. The docking stations for the computers finally arrived, 5 days early. Sgt. Renner took all the equipment to the people who are going to install it. He sent all the old tasers to a place called Accredited Security in Florida. They recycle old equipment and sent the police department a check for \$190. For the 2024 bulletproof grant, he applied for that. For the two new squadcars, they will not be able to use the old radars from the old cars because they are over twenty years old. He was hoping we could get new radars for the new cars. He found a company that has some refurbished radars and the cost would be \$895 each. Brand new ones would cost \$1895. He requested a demo from the company to see if our officers like them or not, prior to spending that much money. The warranty on refurbished units will be one year. Sgt Jake Renner made a traffic stop in town that took more Fentanyl (one gram) off the street on April 20, 2024. As of June 30, 2024, IWIN will no longer support the police in running information such as driver's license and license plates, etc. Through Omnigo, our computer ITI platforms, they are putting together a program to run that through our computers. It will cost \$2340 a year to use the interface. Omnigo will charge \$1550 for the rest of the year since we didn't sign up earlier and we are halfway through the year. By the middle of June, Chief will revisit this with the board. Officer Berry and Devin got the 2010 Dodge Charger started and drove it around. Chris recommended listing the car on govdeals.com and trying to sell it. It is an online auction and we'd probably get a better price for it. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to list the 2010 Dodge Charger on govdeals.com, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to accept the contract with Omnigo Software for 5 years and pay the invoice that is currently due. Seconded by Trustee Geppert. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Newbold, Geppert and Politsch.

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Chris reported the campground sign has been installed. The lead inventory grant we have applied for has been approved. Mike Sullivan, who works for Schulte Supply, will do the report. This is to determine if there is any substantial lead content of water service lines. The EPA wants all water lines are made of, albeit copper, lead, etc. It will take 2-3 months for the company to complete it. Chris has talked to Dillon Dachsteiner about the part time mowing position. His last day of school is this week, so he will start May 13<sup>th</sup> mowing grass. The tree that the city opted to pay half for the grinding of the stump, has been taken down. The stump has been ground. They need to produce a receipt so the city can reimburse them \$200. Chris is hoping to purchase a stump grinder so the city can take care of that themselves. Swyear has requested to purchase some roadmill from the city. John Feder was also inquiring about it. Chris recommends we get rid of it. We could sell it for \$5 a ton, which covers the cost of the public works employees loading it. The board members approve of getting rid of it, since we will have more once the Spotsylvania resurfacing project begins.



### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Mayor has been working with Van Lear to get an ambulance contract assignment. He sent a copy of a rough draft this afternoon. He also sent a copy directly to the Fire Department's attorney. Van Lear is in the process of putting together the lease agreement.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE**

### **STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

### **FINANCE AND AUDIT**

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold to approve the transfers, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

### **WATER AND SEWER**

Kaskaskia Water District is increasing their rates by .25 per one thousand gallons. They have not increased their rates in three years. That equals a 5.56% increase. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to raise the water rate 5.56% beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, in conjunction with KWD rates, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

### **PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report.

### **PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

The t-ball diamond has been worked on. The weather has held up the progress.

### **CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

### **ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report.

### **IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Nothing to report.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA**

Nothing to report.

### **MARINA**

John did get one of the river houses over to the shore. Chris told him he could help if needed. Trustee Newbold reported that John knows someone who may be interested in buying it. In regards to the evacuation plan for the campgrounds, Trustee Politsch had some campers call inquiring about what to do if it floods. Trustee Geppert said it is the responsibility of ESDA to manage the evacuation plan in the event of flooding. Trustee Politsch is still trying to contact IDOT about the new signs for the highway.

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Motion was made to approve the MFT Resolution for 05/01/2024-04/31/2025 by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Politsch, Geppert and Newbold. Motion was made to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, as presented. This resolution is in case there is damage to the village from a disaster, and FEMA will reimburse us if we make application. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Geppert, Politsch and Newbold. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch to approve the Wage Resolution, which increases full time employees and part time police officers pay by 5%, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Geppert, Politsch and Newbold.

**CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee Geppert announced that our new siren will be sounded tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. by St. Clair County. Officer Jason Berry wanted to recognize Chief Buehler in assisting with the birth of the baby in the Casey's parking lot. The two of them worked together and mom and baby are all doing well.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:32 p.m. by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, President

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector

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