

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

VISITORS

Edwin L. Cockrell, Jr., Mark Schreder and Jason Bohannon

Edwin Cockrell, Jr. suggested that the Board not dismiss the CDBG grant. He asked them to reconsider filing the grant.

Cockrell also suggested that elected officials should not be making comments on social media. He said they should hold their positions to a higher standard.

Mark Schreder was present regarding the ordinance for the storage containers which was going to be discussed later.

Jason Bohannon was present to observe.

READING THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the January 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting was presented to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the January 2, 2025 Special Board Meeting was presented for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2025 Special Board Meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the January 17, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting was presented to the Board for approval. Trustee Politsch questioned the blacktop situation at 807 Spotsylvania St.. Chris Remick stated that they will wait until the punch list is complete for the Spotsylvania St. project to decide what will need to be done.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken stated that he spoke with the village attorney regarding two different properties in town. 1105 Mill St. was sold for back taxes, but the new buyer backed out. The Village could get the property for \$750.00 if interested. The other property, 502 S. Johnson St., has been abandoned. Taxes have not been paid in two years. We can file for possession of the property if the board chooses. There was a discussion about the possible cost to demo these properties and it was mentioned that neighbors of both properties may be interested in purchasing from the Village.

Trustee Politsch mentioned that St. Clair County has helped with demolition of properties in other communities, but she believes the properties must be in public areas and we may have missed the opportunity.

VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk, Nancy Ritter, updated the Board on the credit card. She stated that she will be doing a test this week to see if it works and if everything is good, we should be up and going before the end of the month.

Ritter also noted that once she gets the credit card system going, she will focus on getting the direct deposit back in place.

TREASURER'S TIME

The Treasurer was not present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log for January.

Buehler noted that Officer Berry was honored at a VFW meeting for delivering a baby last May.

Chief Buehler asked if he could purchase two bean bag rifles for the department and use the funds from the Police Savings Acct. Mayor Behnken suggested it be put on the agenda at the next board meeting to vote on.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Superintendent Remick said that he ordered the mower that was approved for the St. Clair County Park Grant. He ordered it from Mascoutah Equipment.

Remick noted that they had two different water breaks in January that resulted in an estimated loss of 130,000 gallons.

Remick also noted that he is going to talk to the Village Attorney regarding trimming trees. He noted that our insurance said that we should not be trimming our trees if they are hanging over someone else's property unless the tree is dead or damaged. The property owner may trim them if it is affecting their property.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The monthly bills were presented to the Audit Committee for review.

Trustee Newbold stated that the committee reviewed the monthly bills and is recommending the approval of all that were submitted.

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

WATER AND SEWER

Superintendent Remick stated that the grit classifier at the sewer treatment plant has a leak and needs to be repaired. He received a quote from Basic Industries that it would be between \$1,500 and \$4,000.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the repairs to the grit classifier by Basic Industries. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Remick stated that Ray Gregowitz, who lives on Mari Ln, had sewer backed up in his basement due to a clog on the Village's side of the main. His insurance paid for the damages, less a \$1,000 deductible. Mr. Gregowitz is requesting the Village pay his deductible. The Board advised Remick to tell the owner that we do not pay insurance deductibles.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2024-13 was presented again to the Board for approval. The ordinance is regarding cargo storage containers.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve Ordinance 2024-13.

Before the final vote on the ordinance, there was a discussion as to what exactly the passing of this ordinance would mean. Some thought that it would mean that the containers would not be allowed from this day forward and that the ones that are currently in place

would be grandfathered in. The mayor said there would be none of them grandfathered in. The discussion, which included Mark Schreder, caused some concerns as there was some misunderstanding of what exactly it meant.

It was decided to rescind the vote and to discuss again at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 24, 2025.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to table the vote on Ordinance 2024-13 until the Board can discuss further at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 24, 2025. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

At the last Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Board discussed the 2025 CDBG grant application. It was decided not to file the application this year.

A motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Feder, to not file the application for the 2025 CDBG grant. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Trustee Politsch noted that the Arbor Day celebration will be on April 26, 2025.

Trustee Politsch requested the Board discuss the replacement of three fire hydrants by the school at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. She noted that they were previously told that TIF funds could be used for this.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nothing to report.

MARINA

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Village Clerk