

Committee of the Whole Meeting

4.2

February 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairperson Steve Newbold. Members present were Mayor Joe Behnken, Trustees Arlene Geppert, John Feder, Gary Kearns, Debby Politsch, Rich Fitzgerald and Steve Newbold. Visitors present were Mark Schreder, Jason Bohannon, Edd Cockrel and Jay Patell.

Visitors. Mark Schreder and Jason Bohannon were present to observe. Edd Cockrell asked about the process of the Village acquiring properties. It was explained that the Village purchases derelict, abandoned properties, for back taxes, that are eyesores and dangerous to the community. Said properties are demolished either in-house or by bid to outside companies. The lots are then sold via sealed bid to the highest bidder with the stipulation that construction of a structure be completed within a specified time frame. In some circumstances, where the structure is salvageable, the same parameters apply with the exception that the structure is not demolished but rather rehabbed. Conditions of the sale are published, prior to the bid process, so that the buyers are aware of the process. The Village is able to recoup expenditures, in time, when the property generates property tax revenues.

3. Ordinance

3.1 Cargo Container Proposed Revised Ordinance. The revised Ordinance appears to be suitable and will be placed on the agenda for voting at the next Board meeting (see attachments).

3.2 1105 South Mill purchase contract. The item was reviewed to purchase this property for \$750 plus \$36 for recording fees. (see attachment)

4. Improvements and Grants

4.1 Tree City USA/ NA Tree Board/ Arbor Day. Debby provided a draft of Arbor Day which is April 26, 2025. (see attachment)

5. Water and Sewer

5.1 Water Loss Report (see attachment). In the Board's opinion whether the problem is meter related or water line related, this issue is still unresolved. The Board supports systematic replacement of older meters as opposed to have to borrow money for wholesale replacement of all meters.

5.2 Change water billing units from 1,000 gallons to 100 gallons. There is still disagreement between the Mayor and Board members as to this being a solution to the usage versus billable water discrepancy. Apparently, this conversion is easier said than done. Supt of Public works Chris Remick and Village Collector/Clerk Nancy Ritter will be consulted as to what the process entails.

6. Public Safety

6.1 Discussion of ESDA (EMA) Currently the ESDA Director position is open following Arlene Geppert and Devin Brown's resignations. A list of procedures and a binder of the plan was presented.

Mr. Cockrell spoke on the subject and appears to be both knowledgeable and receptive to assuming the duties of this position. The Board will await future developments.

7. Marina

7.1 Demolition of RiverHouse. John spoke on obtaining suitable equipment to complete the removal project. He will meet with Chris to set up a schedule.

8. Othe Business

8.1 YTD Fiscal Operation Result. (see attachment). Report was reviewed and noted some of the numbers are subject to one-time expenses, some are recurring, and some are on-going.

8.2 NACSD Academic Report-signage recognition. The New Athens Junior high School was recognized as an Exemplary school by the State, ranking 60th out of 2,557 schools. The Village is exploring signage to post this prestigious award.

9. Motion to adjourn made by Arlene and seconded by Rich. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Minutes submitted by Steve Newbold