**May 20, 2024** **VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS**

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, Fitzgerald and Feder. Trustees Geppert 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 May 6, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, 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 Committee of the Whole meeting of April 22, 2024, were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the Committee of the Whole 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 April 29, 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.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor wanted to discuss the idea of arranging a working capital loan with 1st National Bank of Waterloo and collateral agreement. What would be used for capital is Tax Anticipation Warrants. The bank would take a UCC filing on future tax revenue. The reason why he’d like to have a working capital loan is when we sell securities, brokered CDs or treasury bills prior to their maturity date, we are at the mercy of the market. An option would be the interest cost on a working capital loan vs. the maturity date security, would be less than the maturity discount on a premature sale. He doesn’t know if we are going to have to front the money for the Spotsylvania project and then get reimbursed by IDOT and he has not received a solid answer on that, so it would be nice to have a line of credit. It could not be drawn upon without full board approval. Trustee Newbold asked if this essentially was like a home equity loan. Mayor stated yes, it is a line of credit. It would probably be 6.5-7.5 percent interest. Trustee Fitzgerald questioned what the amount would be on the line of available credit. Mayor responded $200,000.00. Trustee Newbold agrees it wouldn’t be a bad idea and it could make sense but should only be used when necessary and only used with full board approval. The mayor will ask the bank to proceed with putting a proposal together and it can be further discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The mayor presented the board with a draft appropriation for 2024-25 fiscal year. The appropriation is only required for governmental funds. The general fund appropriation includes the amount owed on police vehicles, $120,000, an infrequent expenditure. It needs to be approved before the end of the second fiscal quarter. Because our population is less than 2,000 people, we do not require a public hearing on it. Trustee Feder questioned some of the amounts, namely bank charges for $16,205. Mayor could not explain it. Trustee Feder also questioned $5100 in discrepancies. Trustee Politsch questioned why the marina account is a restricted account. She felt it should be used for marina expenses. Mayor explained that it is a committed account, with no definition of what committed applies to. The expenses for the marina are not coming out of the committed fund with no provisions. If we are to use the fund for the marina expenses, we’ll need to develop a resolution and define what it is to be used for. Trustee Politsch would like to see the income/expenses for the marina, so they have a better idea of what is going on with it. The trustees would like to see a profit and loss report on income from the campgrounds and expenditures.

Mayor gave an update on the Spotsylvania resurfacing project. The August 2 letting date is still doable. The progress with Volkert or lack thereof, we have until June to submit a final plan then discuss with IDOT what we can take out of it to reduce the cost, then IDOT must approve it, then a final design will be published the 28th of June. That is the next target date. Trustee Fitzgerald asked how much we have paid Volkert and why we aren’t getting results. Mayor explained that Volkert has maybe $110,000 in fees from us for Spotsylvania. But we need to hit that August 2nd letting so we know what our costs are going to be.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Nothing to report.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Andy shared the balance sheets. He reported that Brian at Scheffel Boyle wants more money to perform our annual audit. He reported the accounts were not too bad this month, there were two with issues. Reconciliation didn’t match last month’s ending balance. He is investigating the problem. The big problem is not knowing when the errors are happening. Discussion regarding how many people are in Quickbooks and who is responsible for reconciling the accounts. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Trustee Feder. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief presented the activity log for the first half of May. The old squad car has been listed on govdeals.com so we can get rid of it. Chief has submitted the 2024 Camera grant to try to recoup some of our money. He called about the new squad cars and was told the partitions are on backorder. He said thank you to the board members for attending the DARE graduation. He just received information on a 2024 Taser Grant and will be looking into that, as well. Officer Warner’s fingerprints came back, and he sent all of the certifications to the Officer’s Training board to further the process. Sgt Jake Renner had yet another outstanding traffic stop three days ago. The person had a warrant with no valid driver’s license. He seized 225 buttons of Fentanyl, three bags of methamphetamine, Xanax, and more controlled substances, along with scales and other drug paraphernalia, including a magnetic box that attaches to the bottom of the car. The person is back in jail and is looking at time in prison. He also had a felony warrant out of Monroe County for distribution of a controlled substance.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Chris requested to hire Devin Brown back part-time to do trimming for the village. He thanked Trustee Feder for moving the marina house. Motion was made by Trustee Feder to hire Devin as a part-time seasonal employee, seconded by Trustee Politsch. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Mayor requests that Chris go down to the ambulance shed and change the locks on June 2. Mayor has signed the document from IDPH, giving the ambulance service a termination date.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Chris reported a few culverts have been put in.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

Nothing to report.

**WATER AND SEWER**

Motion was made to accept the quote from Schulte Supply to conduct the Lead Service Line inventory for ILEPA by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. The grant we have received will cover the cost of the inventory.

**PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

Trustee Politsch reported that the Tree Board requests to plant a tree at the Community Park to replace the tree that was cut down and using the funds from Tree City USA, they will purchase the tree. The library has requested to do the Story Walk again at Okaw Valley Park.

**CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

Trustee Politsch reported we received approval from IDOT for the road sign. We currently have over 400,000 views on Google for the campgrounds.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

**CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee Feder asks again about the Roadamil (sp?). John would like to pay $2000 for the pile. It will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:46 p.m. by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector