

June 3, 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, Geppert and Feder. Trustees Fitzgerald and Kearns were absent. Also present were Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, Jason Berry, Patrol Officer and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

VISITORS

Visitors included Jason Bohannon, Devin Brown, Cory Funk and Joshua Dietz. Mr. Bohannon asked if we have the online water bill payment ability yet. He was informed that we are getting that set up. Mr. Dietz questioned what the plans were for the tax money from the previous levy. He was under the impression that those funds were to save the ambulance service. It was explained to him that it was to help recoup the money lost on the ambulance service.

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes of the May 20, 2024, regular board meeting were submitted to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting with one correction and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Nothing to report.

VILLAGE CLERK

Paula reported the costs of the LOCiS module to be able to accept online payments. Trustee Politsch questioned the various levels available since there are three different modules. Mayor discussed the Epay option, which is furnished by the state treasurer’s office, even though both options can give us different methods of payment. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to go with an initial trial of the Invoice Cloud on LOCiS, seconded by Trustee Politsch. Following further discussion, a roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief shared the activity log for May 2024. He shared info on Omnigo, which will now be taking the place of their software IWIN that they get their reports from (running license plates, registrations, etc) that is going to be going away. Omnigo is taking over those tasks and the cost for the remainder of the year is \$1550.92. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the cost of this software. Eric Bennett said it will be available by June 30, 2024. A roll call vote was answered by all trustees present. Chief reported that he sold the 2010 Dodge Charger on the govdeals.com website, for \$2685.00. He now also has additional items listed that are old and of no use to the village at this time. Officer Strickland has donated 3 Thinkpads to the police department. The only cost for the village was for power cords for the units. The new squad truck has arrived. Chief is asking that the board allow he and Jason Berry to roll their personal days over to the next year because of them being short-staffed and no time available for them to use their personal days due to needing to cover the shifts left open by Jake Renner being out due to injury. Decision was made to table the discussion till the Committee of the Whole meeting. Devin Brown has installed the old radio out of the Dodge in the office, so they can hear the radio in there. Devin would like to use the old Impala as an ESDA vehicle. It will be discussed at the

Committee of the Whole meeting. Illinois is still processing Ryan's training. The state informed Chief that it will take up to 30 days to process. Trustee Feder requested that we leave the new vehicle unmarked for 90 days, until we can get it in to have it striped.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Chris reported the public works men have been cleaning ditches on four different blocks. They have poured 64' of concrete sidewalk on South Clinton. He spoke with IDOT today and they have verbally approved their expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. Mayor requested a list of sidewalks that need repair. Trustee Geppert questioned the problem of the trees that are causing damage to the sidewalks. Chris said those trees will need to be removed, but if they are not on city property, there is not much the village can do except remove the damaged sidewalk and not replace it.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mayor requests the board to approve him signing off on the assignment contract of the ambulance service. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the mayor's signing of the assignment contract. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to sell the entire pile of Road Mill to John Feder for \$2000. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present, except Trustee Feder, who abstained from voting.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve bills submitted for audit. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the transfer request. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to hire Scheffel Boyle to help set up a separate ledger system in Quickbooks. A roll call vote was answered aye by all Trustees present.

WATER AND SEWER

Chris has been contacted by IEPA and they explained to him that we need a CMOM report-that stands for Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance. They will now require a very lengthy report but he has contacted Illinois Rural Water Association, which we belong to, and they are going to come help Chris make the report up in a week or two.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Cemetery looks nice, they were mowing again this weekend.

ORDINANCE

Nothing to report.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch reported our St. Clair County Park Projects are completed. She will be meeting with Paula to get all the bills so we can get reimbursed.

PUBLIC SAFETY, AMBULANCE AND ADA

Trustee Newbold reported that the EMTs left the Ambulance Shed a complete disaster. Trustee Geppert spent 4 days down there cleaning with help from Chris Remick, Chief Buehler and two employees from MedStar. They left garbage all over, old food in the fridge, and feces on the bottom of the shower from a sewer backup. Arlene hauled out two large garbage receptacles full and a loader bucket full. They left dirty linen all over the floor. Arlene washed 14 loads of laundry that was just left there. Trustee Newbold expressed his disappointment at the shape the EMTs left it in and mentioned how unprofessional their conduct was in the matter. Trustee Geppert asked Josh Dietz why no one notified Village Hall about the sewer backup. He stated he wasn't aware of it. Trustee Geppert said someone simply laid a blanket over the waste and then just left it. Josh Dietz was asked about radios and pagers that the EMTs should return but he refused to contact them. Those items are property of the village. The board expressed their appreciation to Trustee Geppert and those who helped clean up the mess. Trustee Geppert wanted to thank Chris Remick and Chief Buehler for their help in cleaning up the ambulance shed.

MARINA

Trustee Politsch reported that the new IDOT sign had been installed on the highway. Trustee Feder reported that the building is structurally in good condition, and he would like to try to save it.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the 2024-25 Appropriation Ordinance 2024-01. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to accept the Water Rate Increase Ordinance 2024-02, effective 07/01/2024. A roll call vote was answered aye by Trustees Newbold, Politsch and Geppert. Trustee Feder voted no.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:40 p.m. by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector