

**June 17, 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, Kearns and Feder. Trustees Fitzgerald was absent. Also present were Tim Buehler, Chief of Police, Jason Berry, Patrol Officer and Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works.

**VISITORS**

Visitors included one unidentified gentleman who did not sign in and two unidentified gentlemen who arrived late and did not sign in on the sheet.

**READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)**

The minutes of the June 3, 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 dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

The minutes of the May 28, 2024, Committee of the Whole 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 Committee of the Whole meeting and dispense with the oral reading. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor presented an update on the Spotsylvania resurfacing project. Although we were 7 months late according to IDOT's target submission date, IDOT agreed that if we had the final plan submitted by Friday, June 14, 2024, we would be included in the August 2, 2024, letting. We did make that deadline. Josh Hensley, the field engineer from District 8 of IDOT, is to thank for the exceptional expedited service. We continue to receive different numbers from different people, but right now, there is an expected construction cost of \$940,000. The grant is \$791,075, which includes paving, concrete and masonry construction, so the construction shortfall is \$148,925. Construction engineering is an additional \$85,000, so the total overage could be as high as \$233,925. He is talking to DCEO regarding their definition of construction management and there is a line item in their grant for \$36,000. IDOT refers to that activity as construction engineering. If he can get IDOT and DCEO to agree, then that could be reduced by \$36,000, and our overage could be \$197,000. That overage will have to come from three restricted funds: our TIF, Bus District Fund and MFT. We do not know yet what the bids will be. This is a computer estimate. He went on to discuss the Epay and Invoice Cloud module that the board voted on. The module that includes Epay is on the attachment. The third-party payment processing module is what we should be going with. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to go with the third-party module so we can use Epay. Trustee Feder questioned the fees, which will be less. Training will be \$100 an hour plus \$60 an hour travel cost. If it can be done by Zoom or otherwise, it would be more cost effective, and the cost will remain at .08 per echeck transaction. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch to table discussion until further information was investigated. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Computype has advised us our computers in the clerk's office currently have about half of the gigabytes that Quickbooks recommends, which can be a large amount of our issues. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to purchase two new computers for the office staff. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Mayor received a request by resident, Dianne Sinn, to waive her late fee penalty, stating she put her payment in the drop box on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, stating she has never been late on a payment before. Her payment was stamped on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. Chris said he would like to caution the board on this move. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to table this discussion until her bill can be reviewed, seconded by Trustee Geppert. Paula will review Ms. Sinn's bill and report back to the board. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present.

### **VILLAGE CLERK**

Paula reported her notary certification has been approved and she can now notarize documents. An employee brought a check in that was 6 months old, the payee misplaced it and then found it and now needs it replaced, since it was over 90 days old. Board instructed her to go ahead and replace it. She reported Ed Braun called to question if we could do anything about his water bill due to the break in at the old nursing home building. Decision was made that he is responsible for the full amount due. Trustee Politsch suggested in the future, we should request customers put their requests in writing, which would be helpful.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Andy presented the board with the treasurer's report in the form of a balance sheet for this year and last. Next month the report will be different due to the new companies being set up. Motion was made by Trustee Newbold to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Trustee Geppert. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present.

### **POLICE CHIEF**

Chief submitted the activity log for the first half of June. No news as far as the black SUV being built. Homecoming is this weekend. Chief and one other officer will be down there. Other officers are on vacation and two are out with injuries. St. Clair County Auxillary has agreed to come help and Justin Majzel said they will pay for that. It is going to cost \$550 per night for one supervisor and two auxillary persons. Majzel said they would pay the additional help directly themselves. The state of Illinois sent the waiver back for Ryan, who we had hoped would have his training completed, but they are not going to recognize South Dakota or Missouri's training. Chief told him he would have to complete a physical and proceed from there. One of our part-time officers is interested in becoming full-time. Cody Powell is currently a part time certified officer and will need to take the 80-hour transition course to become full time. Training is held at Lindenwood and the cost will be a total of \$1500. It begins on September 9th, with the application deadline being August 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to hire Cody Powell, contingent on his completing and passing the additional training. Chief had to re-fingerprint him and they have been sent off. A vote of aye was answered by all trustees present.

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

Chris reported he received the preapproval permit which has been posted. Joe and Chris met with Schulte Supply regarding the lead inventory report. They are supposed to be emailing Chris the contract. The lines will not need to be unearthed so there is no reason for any excavation. They will be surveying and knocking on doors asking people about their water lines. The cost averages out to \$49.95 per customer and they will be billing us for 600 when they will actually be surveying approximately 900. IEPA is good with them doing it. He then reported Public Works has poured 288 linear feet of sidewalk. They will not be able to pour more until after oiling and chipping is completed.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

No contract has been signed yet due to the vehicle situation. MedStar has been down at the ambulance shed.

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

### **STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

Motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve transfer from Water & Sewer to General Fund to pay for new police vehicle. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**WATER AND SEWER**

Motion was made to approve the Kaskaskia Water District contract renewal by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the IDNR 10-year land lease agreement and pay \$242 annually. A roll call vote was answered aye by all trustees present.

**PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

Okaw Valley Park North T-ball diamond had an issue with some glass pieces that were found in the dirt. It has been cleaned up. Chris walked the field and only found two small pieces of glass. There are a few rocks but nothing dangerous for the children to be playing on. Chris had closed the field to use, until the board feels it is safe to reopen it. Motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to reopen the T-ball diamond, as it is now safe to let the kids use it. A vote was answered aye by all trustees present. Discussion will be held at the Committee of the Whole meeting on future maintenance of the park by the village.

**CEMETERY**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Nothing to report.

**MARINA**

Trustee Politsch reported that IDOT did come get the signs that were printed incorrectly and they are replacing them.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

**CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting @ 7:24 p.m. by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Paula Allard, Village Clerk/Collector