

December 16, 2024,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

41301
5161
401

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 Geppert, Feder, Newbold, Kearns, and Politsch. Trustee Fitzgerald was absent. Also present were Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Buehler, Chief of Police and Patrolman Jason Berry.

VISITORS

Matt Ridlen

Ridlen was present regarding noises coming from Siemen's Manufacturing Company on N. Johnson St. He said it sounds like a pressure release valve going off every five to ten minutes. He said it is an issue for him and some of the other residents in the area. He said he spoke with a maintenance person from Siemen's, and he did not seem to think there was a problem, so he talked to the Chief of Police about it. Chief Buehler said he talked with three different people at Siemen's, and they all said everything was fine. Trustee Feder commented that since the Chief talked to them it may get better.

READING THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the December 2, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was presented to the Board for approval. There was a change on the first page for the time that Trustee Feder came in for the meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2024, Regular Board Meeting with the noted amendment. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

The minutes from the November 25, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting was presented to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken discussed the CDBG 2025 grant. He stated that if the Board were going to file the grant application it would need to be completed by March 15, 2025. He suggested the Board decide what sidewalks they would like to do for this grant.

Superintendent Remick asked if there were limitations to what this grant could be used for. Mayor Behnken stated that it must be defined as limited constituency, such as ADA sidewalks. The money for this grant comes from HUD.

After some discussion, it was decided to table the subject until the next committee of the whole meeting.

December 16, 2024,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

Mayor Behnken went over the water recap report. He noted that we are still purchasing more water than we billed. There was a brief discussion regarding the water loss and the age of the water meters.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S TIME

The Treasurer presented the Board with the November Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to approve the November Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Buehler submitted the activity log for the first half of December.

Buehler noted the decals are on the vehicles now. He also noted that he received the bullet proof vests per the grant.

Chief Buehler stated that he is still waiting for the FBI and the State of Illinois to review the fingerprints for the two applicants. Once those return interviews can be set up. He noted that Brandon Strickland put in his resignation today and Kurt Schutz is still out with an injury and may be out for six more weeks.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Chris Remick mentioned that his department has cleared out the overgrown brush behind Lehr's Meat Market. They are in the process of clearing the brush near the bridge on Old Baldwin Rd.

Remick noted that there was a water break in the two hundred block of S. Clinton St. last week. He estimated that they lost 20,000 gallons of water from this issue. He stated that they have repaired water breaks in this area multiple times because the lines are cast iron and have rotted out. He said he spoke with someone from the Illinois EPA regarding long term loans to use for things like this.

Trustee Newbold questioned the sidewalk on Spotsylvania St., across from the gas station, which has water sitting on it. Remick said he will check with Volkert tomorrow to see what can be done about this.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Nothing to report.

December 16, 2024,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

WATER AND SEWER

Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Nothing to report.

CEMETERY

Nothing to report.

ORDINANCE

Trustee Newbold asked if an ordinance was put together regarding the storage containers. Mayor Behnken said that the attorney is working on this.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

Trustee Politsch said the Tree City USA application was submitted last week.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Nothing to report.

MARINA

There was a brief discussion regarding the funds in the campground account and if they are going to be used to pay bills. Trustee Feder stated to discuss further at the next committee of the whole meeting.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Feder said the building next to his old office on N. Van Buren St. is going up for a tax sale. He stated that one of the walls is falling in and does not know how it is going to be demolished without hitting his building because it is so close.

Trustee Politsch noted that the laundromat needs to be addressed. She stated that a citation needs to be issued not a note.

It was noted that the old schoolhouse and the Bullpen both have broken windows and that needs to be dealt with as well.

Trustee Geppert noted that the property on St. Clair St. behind the post office have tethered their fence to the swing set.

December 16, 2024,

VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS

It was noted that the board may need to discuss condemning some properties and how that process will work for us.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Geppert, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Joe Behnken, Village President

Nancy Ritter, Village Clerk