

Committee of the Whole Minutes

April 22, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Steve Newbold. In attendance were Mayor Joe Behnken, Board Members John Feder, Arlene Geppert, Debbie Politsch and Rich Fitzgerald. Visitors present were Corey Funk, Jason Bohannon and Erin Reuss as observers.

Water and Sewer

5.1 Wholesale Water Purchase Report March 2024 (attachments 1 and 2). KWD is raising their water rate \$.25 per 1000 gallons effective July 2024 which translates to a 5.56% rate increase. The water usage rate was reviewed from May 2023 to March 2024. It was noted the high discrepancy on water purchased and billed to consumers. However, the difference has improved over the last 3 months. This is most likely due to the replacement of some of the older meters that are not as accurate in their readings. A difference in opinion on how to proceed between the Mayor and members of the Board exists (attachment 1). It was noted that the water rate was raised 8.06% in February 2024. It was decided to re-evaluate the numbers in 1 month for change.

5.2 Penalties assessed due to late arrival of bills through the mail. This is an ongoing problem and it was recommended to extend the penalty date from the 15th to the end of the month. Additionally, Debbie will investigate an online payment option through LOCIS working with the staff.

5.3 Kaskaskia Water District water rate increases July 1, 2024 (attachment 3). Discussed under 5.1

6 Personnel

6.1 Discussion to increase wages and salaries for all full-time employees and part-time police officers effective on the first pay checks issued after May 1, 2024. Last year was 5.65% and recommended 5% for this year.

7. Public Property and Parks. Work has started on the ball diamonds and waiting on the inventory list from the Little League.

10. Improvements and Grants. Ok to donate excess playground mulch material to the New Athens Unit 60 District. This was paid through a grant.

11. Public Safety, Ambulance and ADA.

11.1 Ambulance Closure Update. Multiple questions concerning the vehicles and lease terms. Rather than the Board hearing details secondhand, it was recommended that a meeting be set up between Village officials, NAFD representatives and a MedStar representative. Joe will make arrangements.

12. Marina. The Marina is open so it needs to be secured as much as possible.

13. Other business

13.1 St. Clair County building Inspection Agreement. Standard renewal process.

4.2

13.2 Request from New Beginnings Day Care Center to place signs at the entrances to the Village advertising the Farmer's Market. OK to proceed.

14. Motion to Adjourn. Motion by Arlene and seconded by Debbie. Motion carried and adjourned at 7:31pm.

Minutes submitted by Steve Newbold

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