

7:30 p.m. The regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Behnken. A roll call was answered aye by Wilson, Geppert, Feder, Newbold and Politsch. Trustee Hamon was absent. Also present were Sandy Stolte, Village Treasurer; Chris Remick, Superintendent of Public Works; and Leo Simburger, Chief of Police.

VISITORS

N/A

READING OF THE JOURNAL (MINUTES)

The minutes from the previous board meeting had been distributed for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Politsch, to approve the board minutes as were submitted. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

MAYOR

Mayor Behnken discussed various grant opportunities. DCEO has a business grant that can be used for a variety of things including business building repair and/or beautification.

Mayor Behnken also pointed out that the MFT fund is built up and thought it would be a good idea to start the process of repairing some of the sidewalks that appear to be unsafe. He suggested the streets & alleys chairperson go through town to select the sidewalks that need the most attention.

The mayor reminded the Board about the upcoming public hearing on October 25th regarding the tax increase.

VILLAGE CLERK

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk, was present in the Clerk’s absence.

Nancy let the Board know that she has a dentist appointment on October 27th so she will be in later that morning. The office will be closed until she returns.

TREASURERS TIME

The monthly Treasurer’s report had been submitted to the Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to accept the monthly Treasurer’s report as was submitted. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Simburger noted that Saturday, October 23rd, is ‘drug take back day’ between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. He noted that we accept drug drop offs all the time and those drugs as well as any collected this Saturday, will be taken to the DEA office in Fairview Heights for proper disposal.

The Chief applied for a COP’S grant which would pay 75% of an additional officer’s total wages, fringe benefits included, for three years. The amount of the grant is \$150,000. Simburger said it would be late October or early November before we know if the grant will be awarded.

There was a brief discussion regarding some of the current police officers looking and interviewing at other departments. The Chief is concerned that if we lose officers, we may not have 24-7 coverage if he can't make the schedule work.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Chris Remick noted that the mulch has been ordered for the park.

Remick also noted that Haier Plumbing worked on the lift station issue at the sewer treatment plant and was able to get the problem resolved. He would like to possibly use them for other sewer projects in the future.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Director Green was not present.

Trustee Geppert noted that the ambulance that was damaged by the garage door will be taken to Jerry's in Freeburg to get painted. She noted that the garage door is not fixed but is operable.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

STREETS AND ALLEYS

The committee had nothing to report at this time.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

Mayor Behnken and Trustee Newbold met with Andrew Fauth and Deb Shasserre with Lowry Benefit Services to discuss the employee health insurance. The agency would be able to provide the same plans as our current agent. It was discussed that if they went with a plan with a higher deductible they would check into a 'GAP' plan to see if that would be beneficial to make up the difference. Deb will check to see what the cost for this plan would be. The mayor felt the Village should go with the new agency.

A motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to switch the Village's insurance agent to Lowry Benefit Services. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

WATER AND SEWER

Remick is to get quotes from Hank's Excavating and Haier Plumbing on the storm sewer issue at 108 S. Market St.

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA

Greg Weston applied as a part-time EMT. His background check came back good.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to hire Greg Weston as a part-time EMT. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

It was noted that the committee will meet on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. Members of the fire department are expected to be there as well as MedStar Ambulance Service. Abbott Ambulance Service is supposed to have a partnership program that may be discussed as well.

Trustee Politsch noted that she looked at the current ambulance schedule and there are still a lot of holes in it. Mayor Behnken noted that the total cost of the ambulance stand-by hours is 65% of their payroll.

The Personnel Committee met previously to interview applicants for the Clerk/Collector position. They met again for a second interview with Amy Benwell who is the candidate they are recommending for the position. Her compensation will be the same as the previous Clerk/Collector. She has accepted the position and gave a start date as November 1st.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder, to appoint Amy Benwell as Village Clerk/Village Collector with the compensation to be the same as the previous Clerk/Collector. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Mayor Behnken advised Trustee Politsch to contact Benwell regarding the appointment.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS

Trustee Feder met with Stan Sirtak on October 9th to go over a list of things that Sirtak would like to do regarding the marina. Sirtak did not have his list completed and will get back with Feder.

Trustee Newbold had someone contact him regarding some ideas for the marina. They were going to be out of town but said when they get back, they would discuss further.

CEMETERY

Trustee Newbold reported that Weiss Monument will be restoring the monument that was defaced.

IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS

The materials for the playground at Okaw Valley Park have been ordered and the work will start as time permits.

Mayor Behnken discussed the DCEO grant for resurfacing Spotsylvania St. and an IDOT grant which is funded by the Federal DOT. He stated the funding cycle could take 2 to 3 years and our portion could be \$166,000 plus engineering fees.

The mayor said the Board would have to decide to take a gamble with the DCEO grant or wait for the IDOT grant.

Trustee Newbold thought it was said by Katie at Boss's office, that we may be able to blend grants. It was suggested that he reach out to her to see if that is accurate.

ORDINANCES

Frank Heiligstein dropped off some of the pages of ordinance updates but hasn't sent everything yet.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS, AND ORDINANCES

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Simburger noted that there were two boats left at the marina, however, one was removed by Feder Trucking and the other is still there. The boat was sold to someone from Herrin, and they are supposed to have it removed this week or next.

Remick spoke with Ameren regarding the electrical outlets at the campground. They are wanting steps or a ladder installed. Remick said this would cost around \$7,000. It was mentioned that Ameren has money to be used for safety items.

The sidewalk grant was brought up and Trustee Politsch is still working with trying to get more time to get the project finished and apply for a second grant to combine.

Remick will be meeting with a representative from the Corp. of Engineers at the end of this month or first part of November to go over the levee inspection.

The next round of IDPH CO-VID 19 vaccinations will be on Monday, November 1st at the community hall from 2:00 p.m. thru 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Behnken is getting a quote from Risk Management Association for our liability and worker's comp insurance.

Trustee Politsch said she spoke with someone from Heartland Conservatory regarding monies for beautification/improvements. She noted that they would like a plan/vision for the community first.

Remick noted that they started the sewer maintenance program. They have completed 8 blocks since October 4th but have not had time to do more since.

Trustee Feder is to set up a meeting with Jim Alfeldt to discuss the condition of the laundromat/car wash.

There was a brief discussion regarding the drainage issue on Mari Lane. Remick stated that this is private property, and it would have to be surveyed. He suggested the owner build his own ditch.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Feder, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk
Joe Behnken, Village President