

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**

Tim Pruett, Volkert, Inc.

**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 Geppert, to approve the board minutes as were submitted. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Behnken prepared an amended resolution for the annual appointments adding Steve Newbold as Vice President of the Board and Amy Benwell as Village Clerk/Collector.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve Resolution 2021-07, regarding the appointments of Steve Newbold as Vice President of the Board and Amy Benwell as Village Clerk/Collector. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Mayor Behnken discussed having a 'Committee of the Whole' meeting from time to time when necessary. He stated that an ordinance would have to be approved to allow this. He advised the Board to think it over before the next board meeting.

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Nothing to report.

**TREASURERS TIME**

Nothing to report.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Simburger mentioned that the one boat that is still at the marina should be moved out soon. The owner is waiting to get a trailer that he can haul it out with.

Simburger also noted that there were no incidents on Halloween.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS**

Nothing to report.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Director Green was not present.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

Trustee Geppert and Trustee Politsch drove around town and made a list of sidewalks that need repaired. Trustee Geppert stated that they had around fifty sidewalks on the list. Mayor Behnken advised that they put this list in order of severity.

It was mentioned to add sidewalks to the MFT appropriations for next year.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT**

The monthly bills were reviewed by the Audit Committee prior to the board meeting.

Trustee Wilson is going to talk with the company that cleans our rugs to discuss the cost.

A motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Feder, to approve the monthly bills as was submitted. A vote was answered by all members present.

Mayor Behnken and Trustee Newbold met with a representative from Risk Management Association to discuss switching agencies for our liability insurance. The Board was given a packet to review. Mayor Behnken stated that our current carrier has until November 26<sup>th</sup> to give a quote.

**WATER AND SEWER**

A letter was presented to the Board regarding a resident who had a water leak under his landscaping. The resident, Rodney Cockrell of 2511 Sweet Birch Ln., is requesting some relief on the sewer portion of his current bill. His average usage is 7,000 gallons per month and since the leak he has used 47,000 gallons. The Deputy Clerk averaged a credit as \$252.00.

A motion was made by Geppert, seconded by Politsch, to approve the sewer credit of \$252.00 for the owner of 2511 Sweet Birch Ln. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Tim Pruett with Volkert, Inc. was present to go over the bids for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project. There were three bids received with the lowest from Visu-Sewer of Missouri, LLC in the amount of 49,571.65. Pruett recommended the Village approve the low bidder.

A motion was made by Trustee Politsch, seconded by Trustee Newbold, to accept Volkert, Inc. recommendation of the low bidder, Visu-Sewer of Missouri, LLC, for the sanitation sewer rehabilitation project. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

**PERSONNEL, PUBLIC SAFETY/ADA**

A recommendation was made to hire Addyson Mattern as a part-time EMT.

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

Trustee Politsch noted that at the last board meeting she announced that Amy Benwell's start date would be November 1<sup>st</sup> but it is November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Politsch noted that the committee met with the New Athens Fire District on October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ambulance service. It was decided to leave things the way they are for now and keep the district informed.

A compensation/benefit workshop will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PARKS**

There was a brief discussion regarding one of the tenants being late on the rent at the medical center. Trustee Newbold and Trustee Geppert will go together to discuss this matter with the tenant.

**CEMETERY**

Trustee Newbold noted that they still need to schedule a date when Weiss Monument can come out and refurbish the defaced monument at the city cemetery.

**IMPROVEMENTS AND GRANTS**

There was a brief discussion regarding the DCEO sidewalk grant. Trustee Politsch will continue to check on information.

It was noted that all the supplies for the park grant are here except for one load of mulch.

Trustee Politsch noted that the Lions Club would like to purchase three trees for Okaw Valley Park. They will get with Remick to decide the placement of these trees.

**ORDINANCES**

The Ordinance Committee met this date prior to this meeting. It was noted that there are questions regarding the updates that Frank Heiligstein turned in. They will talk to Frank before moving forward.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chris Remick will be meeting with the Corp. of Engineers this week for the annual levee inspection.

Remick noted that they have completed 18 blocks of sewer jetting.

Trustee Politsch attended a webinar on October 29<sup>th</sup> regarding a grant program. She is planning on attending it again on November 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as Mayor Behnken.

Trustee Newbold noted that the second COVID clinic was held today at the Community Hall. A representative there said they gave over 80 vaccinations.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

**VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Newbold, seconded by Trustee Geppert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. A vote was answered aye by all members present.

Nancy Ritter, Deputy Clerk  
Joe Behnken, Village President