

OCTOBER 19, 2020 VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS 905 SPOTSYLVANIA PAGE 1

7:30 p.m. The regular board meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Klein. A roll call was answered aye by Geppert, Wilson, Newbold, Hamon, Ruhmann and Boden in person. Sandy Stolte, Attorney Dennis and Chief Simburger were present in person. Andrew Green was present via telephone conference call.

The board reviewed the minutes from the October 5, 2020 board meeting.

A motion was made by Newbold; seconded by Boden, to approve the October 5, 2020 board minutes as presented. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Ruhmann, Boden and Geppert. Hamon voted present.

VISITORS

Jeff Wetzel, Mark Schreder, Debby Politsch and Kyle Wetzel were present via telephone conference call.

Kyle Wetzel asked how much longer the process will be to sell the property they are interested in. Attorney Dennis said we are going to follow the state statute to sell the property.

Jeff Wetzel asked why the board was so expeditious in transferring the property to Ford within a week of him acquiring the property from Vasquez. Attorney Dennis said on the Ford property he got a call to prepare the deeds and did it. Attorney Dennis said he wasn't in attendance at the meeting and if he would have been at the meeting, he would have caught the fact that it wasn't being done correctly. The two lots were added to the property he had before. Attorney Dennis has not prepared a new contract on those lots.

FINANCE & AUDIT

Nothing new to report.

WATER & SEWER

When the sewer line collapsed on East Street the sewer backed up into the basement 304 North East Street. It was turned into the Village's insurance and they denied the claim. The Village's deductible is \$5,000 and the resident is asking for \$4,500 in damages. Attorney Dennis spoke with the insurance company and their position is the Village is not responsible where there is no negligence. The Village didn't do something to cause it to collapse, it was an old sewer line. The insurance company told Attorney Dennis they are not going to pay, Attorney Dennis said they are going to sue us and asked if the insurance company would defend us. The insurance company would defend the Village. Trustee Wilson said there is no load limit on that street and there has been a lot of heavy equipment on it over the years which could have contributed to the problem. Trustee Newbold asked if it could be negotiated with the Village paying half and they pay half. The board was in agreement to offer this.

A motion was made by Newbold; seconded by Hamon, to propose to pay half of the \$4,500 in damages at 304 North East Street in lieu of sewer back up. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Ruhmann, Boden, Hamon and Geppert.

STREETS & ALLEYS

Mayor Klein reported in Tyler Liefer's absence, only one bid was received for the Van Buren Street project. This bid came in higher than the engineers estimate, so it is best to wait until spring and send out for bids again.

CEMETERY

Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY & PARK

Trustee Geppert said there are two people interested in buying the lots at 300 South Elizabeth Street and 407 South East Street. Attorney Dennis will draw up the ordinance allowing the property to be put up for bids. Attorney Dennis will have an ordinance to vote on at the next meeting.

Trustee Newbold will schedule a meeting to make plans for the marina.

PUBLIC SAFETY & ADA

Nothing new to report.

POLICE

Chief Simburger reported he is working on the Cures grant program and the Village's allotment is \$84,734.

PERSONNEL

The board received a spreadsheet from United Health Care on the employees' health insurance renewal and the best fit plan for the Village is the BR-SJ/RX614.

A motion was made by Geppert; seconded by Hamon, to renew the full-time employees' health insurance with United Health Care plan BR-SJ/RX614. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Ruhmann, Boden, Hamon and Geppert.

It was discussed to hire Ira Renshaw as part-time public works to drive the leaf truck.

A motion was made by Geppert; seconded by Newbold, to hire Ira Renshaw as part-time public works to drive the leaf truck. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Ruhmann, Boden, Hamon and Geppert.

Michelle Neff noted there was no interest from the full-time employees regarding the additional insurance from Colonial Life.

IMPROVEMENTS & GRANTS

Nothing new to report

ORDINANCE REVIEW

Ordinance 2020.05 authorizing sale of lots 8, 18 and 39 needs to be voted on. This ordinance allows the Village to put the lots up for sale, it does not force us to accept any offer. Attorney Dennis said this requires the mayor to vote and pass with three fourths vote which is more than five aye votes.

A motion was made by Hamon; seconded by Geppert, to approve Ordinance 2020.05 allowing the Village to put lots 8, 18 and 39 up for sale. A vote was answered aye by

Newbold, Ruhmann, Hamon, Geppert and Mayor Klein. Wilson and Boden voted nay. Attorney Dennis stated the vote did not meet the requirements to pass.

TREASURERS TIME

Sandy Stolte previously gave the board September treasurers report to review.

A motion was made by Hamon; seconded by Boden, to accept the September treasurers report as presented. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Ruhmann, Boden, Hamon and Geppert.

The Village of New Athens property tax rate history was given to the board.

CLERKS TIME

Michelle Neff reported the Village received a 2020 stimulus grant from Illinois Public Risk Fund for \$592.

MAYOR'S TIME

Mayor Klein said he will open Village Hall November 2nd. At the board meetings temperatures will be taken and everyone will need to wear a mask.

OTHER BUSINESS

Moran Economic Development filed the yearly TIF audit report with Illinois Comptroller's Office. The invoice of \$1,140 needs to be approved to pay.

A motion was made by Hamon; seconded by Ruhmann, to approve to pay invoice of \$1,140 from Moran Economic Development for filing the yearly TIF audit report with the Illinois Comptroller's Office. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Newbold, Ruhmann, Boden, Hamon and Geppert.

Attorney Dennis reported on the Marina case. The order is in from the appellate court. The appellate (Smith) has to file his brief by November 12th, ours is scheduled for December 17th and their reply by December 31st. The court gives two extensions if asked, so those dates could change. The oral argument should be sometime in February and a ruling by spring of next year. Smitty did not put up bond money and Attorney Dennis said the courthouse is not open to do collection matters due to COVID.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Michelle Neff
Village Clerk

Richard Klein
Village President