Regular Meeting City Hall Monday April 15,2024 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Village Board opened with Acting Mayor Laura McMahon presiding. The Village Trustees present were as follow: Roy Dean Dickey, Natalie Krause, Bryan Bingel, and Chris Klingeman.

Visitors present were Mike Trotter-County Journal, John Dagner, Courtney Dagner, Jery Cross, Suzy Ruester, Theresa Holloway, Dominic Beaty, Amber Simon, Luann Simon, Haley Merten, Skylar Simon, Hayes Dunn, Jonathon Milburg, Pamela Welshans, Dru Jackson, Pamela Baker, John Baker, Dan Rhodes, Mike Delong, Todd Kinzel, Tammy Seago, Kelly Jones, Terry Jenkins, Lindsey Perrine, Mike Marler, Ethan Marler, Sara Adams, Abby McMahon, Susie Dahlem, Kevin McDonald and Chad Easton-Village Administrator.

Acting Mayor Laura McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Chris to approve the March 25, 2024, Personnel committee minutes. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Roy Dean to accept the Village Financial Reports as presented. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

KWD is considering a water rate increase in July. Laura will be attending their meeting in April.

Roy Dean reported that Laura and Jim McMahon and himself met with Sara Adams about the flooding issues she has. They came up with a plan and are going to move forward with it. They will contact State Representatives about what they have done to stop the flooding and will also contact IDOT if needed.

Natalie had no report.

Chris reported that the Trivia night that was held for the Coal Festival went well.

Bryan reported that June 1, 2024, the New Athens Ambulance will be shutting down. Medstar and New Athens Ambulance are looking into a taxing district to keep the Ambulance Service in this area. They are first looking to New Athens and Lenzburg and if it works, they will add Marissa and St. Libory. Having a dedicated Ambulance Service with ALS will help with better response times.

Village Administrator Chad Easton reported that he met with MFT Representatives. April was the month to exercise valves.

Laura reminded the visitors that they have 5 minutes to speak, and the Board cannot answer questions concerning Personnel. With the large group present questions can’t be asked and answered.

Theresa Holloway wanted to know what was being done about the flooding issues next to her house and if IDNR could be contacted to check for and remove beaver dams in the ditches. She also said that Pinckneyville Rd. is a flooding issue because the last heavy rainfall trash cans from Pinckneyville Rd. floated down the ditch that runs next to her house. Laura told her that she has driven by a few of the problem areas and can see issues that need fixed but wants to walk the ditches to see better where the problems are.

John Dagner submitted questions in writing and received responses back. John inquired if anything had been done about the FDIC coverage, he asked about a few meetings back. Chad Easton-Village Administrator explained that The Village Bank had forgot to file the paperwork to ensure the money was sufficiently insured and that as soon as the Auditors noticed it the Village Bank was contacted and immediately fixed the problem. John also stated that he has tried to call the Village Hall several times and Donna may want to check her voicemail because it says it is full. He questioned whether there was a personnel committee meeting on March 25, 2024, because the doors were locked, and all lights appeared to be off. He informed the Board that they were in violation of FOIA since his request for the statement Laura read at the March 18, 2024, meeting was not given to him even though it was her notes.

Jerry Cross suggested that Chad should attend both monthly meetings because he can answer questions that the Board may not be able to. Jerry also wanted to know what happened at the Barton’s cleanup because he heard that only paper was removed. Jerry asked when the new Fire House was going to be finished and Bryan told him that he did not have that item listed on his request for placement on the agenda and if he had questions about the Fire House, he needed to attend a Fire District or Fire Department Meeting.

Amber Simon was in attendance to speak about an incident that happened between her family and the Barton family that live across the street from her house. She is unhappy with the way the Officer on duty handled the situation and questioned why her daughter was arrested and held in jail for two days and the man who hit her was arrested and let go.

Dominic Beaty would like to propose a flag drop off box at Village Hall for his Eagle Scout project. This will allow members of the community to drop off Flags to be properly retired. He would like the Village to fund his project. The Board agreed that with the help of the American Legion that they would like to help him.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Natalie to approve the American Legion Post 172 a Poppy Day at the 4-way stop on May 25, 2024, from 7:00 am- Noon or until poppies are gone. Bryan asked if they had insurance, and they do. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Roy Dean to approve the American Legion Post 172 a Putt around the Park on May 4, 2024. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Bryan to approve the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors dues of $100.00. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

Laura spoke with Bob Matzenbacher to get more information about the Whitey Herzog signs they have in New Athens. She found out where they purchased and called the company. The signs are metal and cost $275.00 per sign. The Board needs to figure out what they want on the signs such as saying and picture and where they will be placed and how many they want.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Chris to approve moving the Monday May 20, 2024, meeting to Wednesday May 22, 2024. The Village Attorney will be present and can only come on Wednesday. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to approve Resolution #561 MFT 24/25. $104,000.00 will be for cold patch, rock culverts, oil and chip, salt, and road sign replacements. This year the hot spots will be fixed. Any state money must be ADA compliant. Chad met with MFT about Railroad Crossing and overlay of Main St. They discussed removing 2 inches and then adding overlay. We tried to change the status of our highway from minor to major but were unable to do so. We are eligible for Federal Grants for sidewalks. All our sidewalks are out of compliance except for 1. Every intersection should be ADA compliant, and the cost is approximately $6,000.00 per corner. Chad will move forward with discussions. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to enter Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to end Executive Session and enter Regular Session at 8:17p.m. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

The roof at the Riess Ford Garage-Street shed needs a new roof. Laura walked around in the building and noticed that it is falling in. It is dangerous to leave it as is. They will proceed with getting bids. End caps still need to be put on the flat roof at the Food Pantry.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to approve the 24/25 Budget. Chad went over the budget with the Board. One change in the budget this year is the Police budget has been increased from $278,000.00 to $300,000.00. Chad pointed out in the budget that the Water and Sewer account has carried a deficit of $180,000.00 for the past few years. The budget also includes projects such as new concrete and roof on the Beer stand at the South Park. This is a Net Zero budget and even if all money is spent to make every project happen the Village would still be $10,000.00 ahead. The payroll budget was raised from $1.17 million last year to $1.22 million this year. We will have to see what tax revenue does since we lost Riess Ford and Subway. Next meeting, we will need to set the tax rate.Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Bryan to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.