January 3, 2011  VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS 905 SPOTSYLVANIA  PAGE 1

7:30 p.m. The regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Kearns who led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was answered aye by Kearns, Hampton, Wildermuth, Ostendorf and Kreher. Chief Buehler and Ira Renshaw were also present. Sandy Stolte was absent.

Trustee Kearns noted the audit committee met tonight and went over the bills. The committee questioned the bills from Walden and Hagen. Ira Renshaw explained the Hagen house has 2 sewer lines and when Walden went through the sewer lines this past fall it was thought the second line was for a vacant lot, so Walden was told not to leave an opening for it. The committee recommended to pay the bills as presented.

Trustee Kearns made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the audit as presented. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Ostendorf approve the minutes as presented. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

VISITORS
Larry Rhutasel, Steve Newbold, John Harwerth, and Bruce Nuernberger

Larry Rhutasel of Rhutasel and Associates, Inc was present to go over the waste water treatment preliminary engineering report and facility plan and answer any questions the board may have. The existing plant handles up to 3000 people and is over 30 years old. The sewer plant is structurally and mechanically deteriorating and is not effectively repairable. The generator is not powerful enough. The sludge beds do not provide adequate capacity and odors emanate from the surge tank. A growth study shows New Athens population is unlikely to exceed 3000 within the next 20 to 30 years. 3 treatment studies were done. Suquenching batch reactor is the lowest probable project cost at $1,834,100 and is the best fit for the area. New Athens is not eligible for the Rural Development grant. IEPA has very low interest rates on loans for up to 20 years. Larry Rhutasel felt it would not be necessary to raise sewer rates when incurring this debt when comparing it to the annual operating budget for the wastewater system. He recommends submitting to EPA with preliminary loan application for approval.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kearns to approve Mayor Kearns to sign the preliminary loan application and paperwork to send to the EPA for a new sewer treatment plant. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

Steve Newbold, John Harwerth and Bruce Nuernberger were present to inquire about availability of 2 lots in the Industrial Park. They are interested in putting a 60 x 100 pole building for storage of boats and campers. Trustee Kearns requested they bring in a drawing for local improvements to discuss.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS
Nothing new at this time.

WATER & SEWER
Ira Renshaw noted Andy needs to attend the IRWA conference to get credits towards his water operator’s license. The fee is $200 plus hotel room $80 per night for 2 nights.

Trustee Kearns made a motion; seconded by Trustee Wildermuth to approve Andy Contratto to attend the IRWA conference at a cost of $200 plus hotel room $80 per night for 2 nights. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

STREETS & ALLEYS
Trustee Ostendorf noted the apron at the ambulance shed was not plowed during the last snow falls and to please not overlook in the future. Ira noted nothing was plowed during the last snow fall.

Ira Renshaw noted the CDBG 2010 needs to be signed by the mayor. The grant is for $30,000. The estimate to
January 3, 2011  VILLAGE OF NEW ATHENS 905 SPOTSYLVANIA  PAGE 2

replace water lines for 4 blocks is about $60,000.  It was discussed if should replace 2 blocks or 4 blocks.  If replace waterlines in all 4 blocks this will finish Johnson St.   Ira suggested engineering all 4 blocks, produce plans and get a construction permit from EPA.  Get base bid for 2 blocks with an add on bid of 2 additional blocks.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Wildermuth to approve Mayor Kearns to sign CDBG 2010 Waterline project and have 4 blocks on Johnson Street from Belsha to Kaskaskia Street engineered, plans produced and get a construction permit from EPA, with bidding a base of 2 blocks with and an add on bid for the other 2 blocks.  A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

PARK
Nothing new to report.

CEMETERY
Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Trustee Ostendorf noted a bulb is burnt out at the ambulance shed.  Trustee Wildermuth asked about the phone notification system status.  Ostendorf to contact the fire department about their involvement with the notification system and discuss at next board meeting.  Trustee Kearns noted some of the ambulance employees are not clear about the 1000 hours in the policy and will not sign the letter stating they received the policy.  Trustee Ostendorf stated if they are any more questions regarding this they are to contact Ira Renshaw or Trustee Kreher of the personnel committee.  Mayor to ask our lawyer if it is legal for the ambulance personnel to keep an ambulance volunteer checking account and to check if the volunteers are registered as a nonprofit organization.

POLICE
Chief Buehler went over the activity report and noted there were 27 felony arrests for the year.  Chief noted Andy Contratto was call out on his own time with a Village tractor to transport a bull that had gotten loose from Lehr’s Meat Market.  Chief asked if Officer Hamon attends training for an electronic seizure course at SILEC if he would receive 4 hours comp time.

Trustee Ostendorf made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kreher to approve Officer Hamon to attend the Electronic seizure course at SILEC and receive 4 hours comp time.  A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

PERSONNEL
Mayor Kearns to contact Carla Ehlers to set up a meeting.

GRANTS
Ira Renshaw and Chief looking into IDOT grants for police department.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Nothing new to report.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Ira Renshaw stated Frank Heiligenstein has no standard dumpster ordinance.

TREASURERS TIME
Sandy Stolte was absent.

Nothing new to report

CLERKS TIME
Michelle reminded the next board meeting will be held Tuesday January 18 due to Martin Luther King holiday.
MAYOR’s TIME
Trustee Wildermuth made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kreher to enter into executive session regarding litigation at 8:52 p.m. with Ira Renshaw, Michelle Neff and Chief Buehler present. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to return to regular session at 9:01 p.m. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns, Ostendorf and Hampton.

OTHER BUSINESS
Mayor Kearns noted there is a request from St. Clair Service to vacate the alleyway from Illinois Street to Spring Street. The Village will have to reserve an easement for the sewer line. Our attorney will draw up the paperwork. St. Clair Service will pay all costs incurred including the attorney fees.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kearns authorizing our attorney to draw up the paperwork to vacate the alley from Illinois Street to Spring Street at the expense of St. Clair County. A vote was answered aye by Wildermuth, Kreher, Kearns and Hampton. Ostendorf voted nay.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton authorizing Mayor Kearns to sign the EPA paperwork for the sewer lines at the Marina.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Gary Kearns
Village President

Michelle Neff
Village Clerk