8:00 p.m. The regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Trustee Kreher in Mayor Kearns absence. Trustee Kreher led the pledge of allegiance. A roll call was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Kearns and Hampton. Chief Hill, Officer Hamon, Sandy Stolte and Ira Renshaw were also present.

Trustee Kearns made a motion; seconded by Trustee Weber to approve the minutes as presented. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns. Geppert voted present.

VISITORS
Dennis Schneider, Tommy Weber, Jake Owens, Mark of Stryker and Britny Blumenberg

Dennis Schneider had concerns if he will still be servicing the ambulances as he has in the past. There was an incident where one of the ambulances was taken to another shop in town to be fixed when the ambulance director could not be reach to inform the EMT where to take the ambulance for repairs. Jake Owens stated he has no issues with Dennis’s work and appreciates the service Dennis provides to the ambulance service. The board assured Dennis he will still continue to work on the ambulances for the Village.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS
Ira noted all items are done or are not required on the Hidden Lakes Estates Annexation Agreement for the first phase. A new agreement will be needed before the start of the other phases.

There will be no action for the sidewalk discussion on the commercial lot for Dollar General at this time.

WATER & SEWER
Ira noted we need to start the process with the EPA loan application to borrow $3.3 million for the new sewer plant. Although the cost estimate for the project is only $2.2 million. The requested loan amount is for more in case the actual cost exceeds the estimate cost ends up more that the estimate, so the loan application does not have to be redone.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to authorize Mayor Kearns to execute the documents for the EPA loan application. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

Ira noted SCI Engineering’s bid is $6,500 to do the soil boring and soil report for the sewer plant, which is below the estimate.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to authorize SCI Engineering to do the borings and soil report for the new sewer plant at a cost of $6500. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

Bids were received for the sewer line project by 1031 Spotsylvania Street. Walden was low bidder at $24,218 to repair 708 linear feet of sewer line.

Trustee Kerns made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to accept the bid from Walden to repair 708 linear feet of sewer line by 1031 Spotsylvania Street for $24,218. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

Ira relayed the boards feelings to Bob Biama with KWD regarding the rate increase can only be raised at the end of the contract renewal. The board’s main objection to the rate hike was only getting a three week notice to the rate increase.

Ira stated they dug up 10 feet of sewer line behind Stehl’s house and did not find the leak or any problems. The area was left open for a week and rechecked for leaks. Still nothing was found.
STREETS & ALLEYS
Nothing new to report.

PARK
Nothing new to report.

CEMETERY
Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY
The discussion on Handicap doors tabled until further notice.

Michelle noted Medicare is requiring a provider revalidation to be done along with a charge of $505. When Nancy questioned Medicare about the charge it was unknown if they are going to charge $505 every 5 years or not.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to authorize payment of $505 to Medicare for the provider revalidation. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

Mark of Stryker demonstrated a stair chair and battery operated cots. This up to date equipment will help reduce back injuries. The promotional price is $28068.60 for 2 cots and 2 stair chairs. They will accept our trade in for $1350 off the promotional price, bringing the cost to the village down to $26,718.40. There is a 30 day 100% money back guarantee with no restocking fee. Jake and Tommy use this equipment with Abbot and Jake gives his full endorsement.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to authorize the purchase of 2 cots and 2 stair chairs from Stryker for $26,718.40. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

POLICE
Trustee Kreher noted Jimmy Hendricks turned in his resignation on 09/11/11 with his last day to work on 09/22/11. Jimmy accepted a job with the Metro Link Task Force and will make $6000 a year more. Trustee Kearns and Trustee Hampton were not notified Officer Hendricks resigned. Trustee Hampton requested a copy of the resignation letter be put in all the board member boxes. Trustee Hall said he heard from somewhere else, not through the board that Hendricks resigned. Trustee Kreher stated Chief Hill, Mayor Kearns and himself met with two officers to talk to about hiring for the vacant full-time position. Mayor Kearns gave Trustee Kreher a letter with his recommendation to hire Chuck Wilson for the full-time position. Mayor Kearns told Trustee Kreher that the police commissioner he can hire who he wants with the advice and consent of the board. Trustee Hall felt this should go through the personnel committee before anybody is hired. Trustee Kearns requested an application be filled out as well as references. Trustee Hall, Trustee Kearns and Trustee Hampton all stated they do not give their consent and requested a personnel committee meeting to discuss. Trustee Kearns noted the salaried officers will have to handle the schedule. Trustee Kreher will set up a personnel committee meeting with Chuck Wilson once the mayor returns from vacation. The personnel committee to also look into hiring a part-time officer.

Chief Hill stated on the original bid for the new police car the freight charge of $825 was not included. It was discussed if Dennis Auto Sales gave a state bid price or if he is matching the state bid price. Ira noted he has not seen a Dodge Charger on the state bid. More information is needed on who the state bid is through. Trustee Hampton asked Chief Hill if he received a state bid as he stated in the September meeting. Chief Hill said no he did not. An article was given to the board about Freeburg and Smithton purchasing used cars. Freeburg and Smithton need to be contacted to find out whom they purchase the used police cars from.

Michelle questioned if the salaried full-time police employees should receive special event pay when working the boat races as she did not see it in the ordinance book.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to pay special event pay to salaried officers as long as they have their required hours in and if the Village charges the special event fee. A vote was answered aye by
Michelle noted the St. Louis Drag Boat Association contracted 68 hours of police protection at $23 per hour, but the officers only worked 51 hours of special event pay, a difference of $391. St Louis Drag Boat Association already paid $1564 for 68 hours of special event pay for police patrol. Chief Hill stated Mayor Kearns made to the decision to reduce the hours due to the fact it was raining Friday night and Chief Hill could patrol the marina grounds at night as well as the duty officer. Trustee Kreher thought it was fair to reimburse $391 to the Drag Boat Association.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to reimburse St. Louis Drag Boat Association $391 for special event police patrol hours not patrolled. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

Chief Hill noted the soles on Lieutenant Buehler work boots melted while directing traffic in July when Route 13 hi-way exploded. The company will not cover the boots under warranty and new boots will cost $65.99.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to pay for replacement of Lieutenant Buehler’s boots in which the soles melted while on duty directing traffic on hi-way 13 for the hi-way explosion. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

Chief Hill stated he was getting married in 12 days and will be taking four days off. That is why the mayor acted so quickly trying to replace Officer Hendricks full-time salary position with Chuck Wilson who is already a part-time officer for the Village of New Athens.

PERSONNEL
Nothing new to report.

GRANTS
Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
The automatic handicap doors will be researched more and brought back to the board at another time.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Nothing new to report.

TREASURERS TIME
Sandy Stolte noted the treasurer report needs to be approved. Monthly financials were also handed out.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Weber to accept the monthly treasurer report as presented. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Kearns, Hall, Hampton and Weber.

Sandy noted $10,000 was transferred from the water fund to the MFT fund to cover expenses until a MFT CD could be cashed. The money has already been paid back to water fund. We also borrowed up to $75,000 on the line of credit account for the general account due to the State still owing the Village $58, 000 of income tax and $23,000 in sales tax and only. The sewer fund has $765,000 in investments and even though we are going into debt for 20 years for the new sewer plant, at this time it does not look like sewer rates will have to be raised for the new sewer plant.

Sandy reviewed the yearly audit report with the board.

CLERKS TIME
Nothing new to report.
MAYOR’s TIME
Nothing new to report.

OTHER BUSINESS
Ira Renshaw asked about getting a new internet service provider. We currently have free internet service through HTC, but it does not work well. The Village is allowed so many free cable hook up through cable franchise. Ira to check with New Wave Cable if we can replace a cable credit with free internet service, otherwise it will cost $32 per month.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to authorize Ira to contact New Wave to replace one cable line with internet service, if New Wave will not allow then to purchase internet from them for a monthly fee of $32. A vote was answered aye by Geppert, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Kearns.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Gary Kearns
Village President

Michelle Neff
Village Clerk