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 Hampton, Hall, Weber, Geppert and Kreher. Chief Hill, Ira Renshaw & Sandy Stolte were also present.

It was noted the bill for DMI charged the Village $1000 and Steve Giacoletto charged the Village $700 for the TIF meeting that was held October 4th.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to pay the audit bills as presented. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hall, Weber, Geppert and Hampton.

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

VISITORS
Jim Closson of IMLRMA Loss Control Specialist, Brian Karraker Superintendent of NACUSD #60, Cathy Meggs, Ed Cockrell Sr., Terry Politsch, Robert Volner, Chuck Wilson, Laurel Rhumann school board member and Debby Politsch New Athens Library District

Jim Closson of IMLRMA Loss Control Specialist was present to review the Village’s liability insurance program. In January Jim held public works training to cover the risks that cause claims, as it is best to be proactive to prevent injuries. It is important to have plenty of resources to protect the workers. Jim provides loss control at no charge to the Village like playground inspections at the park. With police officers it is important to have policies and procedures in place and that they are followed to protect injury to the officers. The Village should have a sidewalk replacement program in place if they don’t already have one. IMLRMA would like to see 2 manual park inspections per year. Make sure special event forms are being filled out and certificate of insurance are provided. Jim stressed training programs be set up for operation of vehicles. IMLRMA provides work comp on the operator or driver of Village vehicles per the work comp act. The vehicles are designed for employees to operate. It is highly discouraged to have extra riders in Village vehicles. If in an at fault accident where extra riders are present, there would be a series of claims that would come from that accident and the Village and IMLRMA would be accountable. The Village needs to look at risks, identify the risks and stay away from the areas where claims can be made. Since 2007 the loss ratio for the Village is 152%.

Brian Karraker Superintendent of NACUSD #60 is concerned if the TIF passed the school would lose a lot of money especially if houses were built in the TIF Dist. Brain asked the board to vote no for the TIF District.

Ed Cockrell Sr. is opposed to the TIF District and is concerned with the length of time of the proposed TIF District.

Terry Politsch is concerned too much area is in the TIF District and that there are still unanswered questions.

Laurel Rhumann requested the board to consider voting no for the TIF District as it would put a strain on the school and fire department.

Debby Politsch requested the board to consider voting no for the TIF District. Debby also requested trash service be removed from the water bill at a vacant house but the water stay left on. It was discussed the Village has a contract with Reliable and the Village will still have to pay for the trash service per water services that are on. Michelle to contact Reliable and ask if trash service can be waived for this particular house.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS
Ordinances 2011-03, 2011-04 and 2011-05 need to be voted on to pass the TIF District.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve Ordinance 2011-03 Approving New Athens TIF #1 Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan and Redevelopment Project. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Weber, Hampton and Geppert. Hall voted nay.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve Ordinance 2011-04Designating the New Athens TIF #1 Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Area. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Weber, Hampton and Geppert. Hall voted nay.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve Ordinance 2011-05 Adopting Tax Increment financing. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Weber, Hampton and Geppert. Hall voted nay.
WATER & SEWER
Lester Kirkpatrick 200 N Market St had a toilet leak that resulted in a high bill and is requesting some kind of relief on the bill. Jennifer Helfrich 304 S East St. also had a toilet leak resulting in a high bill and is requesting a payment option.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to allow Michelle to set up payment plans for Jennifer Helfrich and Lester Kirkpatrick. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Geppert.

Nicole Walker of 300 S Benton St had a leak in her yard on her side of the meter using 12,000 gallons above her normal usage. It was suggested to credit her account $60 on the sewer portion of her water bill.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Weber to issue credit to 300 S Benton Street in the amount to $60 on the sewer portion of the water bill. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Geppert.

St. Agatha’s said they did not get the water bill for the rectory and requested the Village waive the penalty charge of $6.25 on the water bill. It was discussed they get more than one bill for their location and should have know a bill was missing.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Weber to deny the request to waive the penalty charge on the water bill for St. Agatha’s. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Geppert.

A letter was received from Kaskaskia Water District stating the recent rate increase was issued at an inappropriate time. The increase will take effect March 2012.

STREETS & ALLEYS
It was discussed if the Village should charge a fee for administrative costs and add it to the trash collection rate. The Village has not added administrative costs in the past. Reliable’s rate is increasing to $12.54. The total rate of $12.75 to charge for trash was discussed.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kreher to increase the trash rate to $12.75 on the next billing. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hall, Weber, Hampton and Geppert.

Ira noted there will be some added cost to the water line project, due to 3 private sewer lines that were hit and repaired. The water line had to be moved to the street in that area.

Stop signs were requested for Mari Lane, Benton and Mill and Benton and Kaskaskia. Ira to make ordinance changes to voted on at next meeting.

CEMETERY
Terry Poltisch noted the signs in the cemetery stated no entrance after dark needs to be replaced as they are faded and can’t be read.

PARK
Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Trustee Geppert asked about the status on the cabinets for the ambulance shed. They will be put in this winter.

POLICE
Chief Hill noted a check from the insurance was received for the equipment in the amount of $7060.46. This includes everything but the computer. As soon as we purchase a computer we will be reimbursed by the insurance. Chief Hill is working on an equipment list and pricing for the new police car.

Trustee Hall asked if business checks were still being done. Chief Hill stated they are still being done, but the pink cards are not being used any more.

PERSONNEL
Trustee Kreher stated 5 potential officers were interview at the personnel committee meeting held. Chief Hill did all the background checks. Mayor Kearns recommended hiring 4 part-time officers. The committee recommends
hiring Jeff Fields, Cameron Reed, Dean Anderson, and Jason Berry and have Jake Hoffman return. Chief Hill stated Jason Berry will have to get a waiver signed from the Training and Standards Board since he has been out of law enforcement for 9 years. Mayor Kearns stated Jeff, Cameron and Dean already worked while Chief Hill was on vacation. Mayor Kearns noted he made a mistake by not having enough part-time police hired for use during vacations, sickness, resignations and such.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to appoint Jeff Fields, Cameron Reed, Dean Anderson, Jake Hoffman and Jason Berry as long as Jason is approved by the Training and Standards Board. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Weber, Hall, Hampton and Geppert.

Trustee Kreher noted Chuck Wilson’s first paycheck was short as per the resolution states what he should be making. Mayor Kearns discussed the issue with Ira and the mayor noted the ordinance may need to be changed for the salary police officers with regards to the working of 84 hours in a 2 week period. It may have to be so many hours per year. Wilson’s payroll sheet only added up to 72 hours and there was no reason stating why he was short. Wilson was hired with the board knowing he could not work weekends in October, but it was not explained to him that the ordinance requires 84 hours in a 2 week pay period. Chief Hill said the Village is not out anything, he covered the shifts for Wilson and Wilson was shorted $200. Wilson was only scheduled to work the 72 hours. Ira said Wilson could have been scheduled to work 84 hours but during the week without working weekends for the month of October. Ira stated the reason the 84 hours per 2 week period is in the ordinance is to have an officer on duty and patrolling 24 hours a day, not one officer covering a 24 hour period by patrolling 12 hours then sitting at home the next 12 hours.

There was a request that personnel hold a committee meeting with Ira, Nancy, Michelle, Chief Hill and Mayor Kearns Monday, 11/14/11 to discuss communication problems within the office.

Trustee Kreher to work with Ira to schedule a personnel committee meeting to interview Brad Main and Tyler Leifer for Ira’s position.

GRANTS
Nothing new to report

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Trustee Hampton noted he received 3 bids on ADA doors for the Village Hall and the medical building. The original bid from Door Control was the lowest bid at $4,635.00. Amman Electric will need to put in electric to operate the doors. Ira to contact Door Control. Hampton also checked on redoing the entrance at the medical building to make it easier for EMT’s to enter and exit with a stretcher. It was discussed with the new stair chairs the EMT’s could use them to easier access to the building. The board agreed to not change the entrance at the medical building at this time. Trustee Geppert noted the Dr. called her and told her the building needs to be painted.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to accept the low bid of $4635 from Door Control for ADA doors at the medical building and Village hall. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Weber, Hall, Hampton and Geppert.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Nothing new to report

TREASURERS TIME
Nothing new to report

CLERKS TIME
Nothing new to report

MAYOR’s TIME
Mayor Kearns told the board how proud he was of the board regarding the TIF and that it may not be a super move for everybody. The municipals are also having rough times and if we are not using all the resources to increase revenue to keep services for the citizens then we are not doing our job. The mayor commended the board for thinking in the best interest of the Village.

Mayor Kearns recommended Daryl Ostendorf to fill Robert Kearns position as Trustee on the board with the advice
and consent of the board. It was discussed if should vote tonight or wait until next meeting.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kreher to approve Mayor Kearns recommendation of Daryl Ostendorf for Trustee. A vote was answered aye by Kreher and Hampton. Geppert, Weber and Hall voted nay.

Mayor Kearns noted if the next person he recommends for Trustee position is voted down, then he chooses from the two people already recommended.

OTHER BUSINESS
Mayor Kearns noted the liability insurance for 2012 went up to $95,896.

Trustee Geppert noted the Senior Center is hosting New Athens has got talent January 28, 2012.

Trustee Hampton stated the PA system and mics are valued at an estimated rate of $845. Hampton to run adds on Craig’s List to try and sell for $1000.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.  

Gary Kearns  
Village President

Michelle Neff  
Village Clerk