8:28 p.m. The annual meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Klein, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was answered aye by Geppert, Kreher, Weber, Hampton, Politsch and Hall. Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer, Jake Owens, Officer Wilson, Officer Hamon and Lieutenant Buehler were also present.

Mayor Klein read the following statement. As your Mayor I am looking forward to working with the citizens of New Athens, the members of the board and all the village employees. I am proud to live in New Athens and honored to serve as your new Mayor. I am a firm believer in honesty. I will always be honest with you and expect the same in return. There may be times that you may not like what I have to say or do but you can be assured that whatever my decision is it is for the better of our community. I believe that things happen for a reason and though it may not be the most appealing decision the end results will have a positive outcome.

Goals: 1) Public Safety. Creating conditions for economic growth starts with public safety. Businesses will shy away from communities that they believe to be unsafe and concern for robberies or property damage. Parents should be able to let their kids play outside and not have to think twice about it. All residents should be able to go for a walk or run without having to carry some sort of self protection. Re-building and strengthening our police force to better serve our community is my number one priority at this time. 2.) The re-accreditation of the levee that protects our village. The levee was completed in 1968. The levee has protected our community thru many spring floods including The Great Flood of 1993, the floods 95 and 2011. If the village has to pay to be re-accredited it could cost greater than $350,000. Any resident or business then included in the flood plane would be required to purchase flood insurance. The village does not have the funds available. This will decrease the economic and residential growth. A committee has been established and working hard to find a solution to this. I will personally oversee this committee and welcome the assistance from former Mayor Kearns. 3.) A healthy cleaner community. As a long time resident, I have noticed properties that have been greatly neglected for one reason or another. I will propose that the properties be cleaned up to our village ordinance standards. Derelict vehicles are removed. I would welcome the support from our citizens, village and student organizations in forming more volunteer committees to help keep our community clean. I would also like to see a community service work program (students, minor offenders, etc.). 4.) Economic, residential and educational growth. I believe we, the village government, should support our existing businesses by providing them the opportunity to bid on village projects prior to extending the opportunity outside the village. While we want to encourage the growth of new business, I don’t want to see any of our existing businesses leave or close. With economic growth comes residential and educational growth. All three of our boys went and graduated from our school. It was nice to know that my kids were not just another student that you sometimes hear from other parents that have kids in larger schools. With the smaller student/teacher ratio the teacher really gets to know your child’s strengths and weaknesses and have a closer student teacher bond. I look forward to working with our school and offer my support. These are just a few goals for our village. I would like to thank Lieutenant Buehler for stepping in as the Interim Chief. He put in many hours bringing the department up to standard with paperwork that was in default and the many hours of patrolling. I would like to thank the other officers as well who have put in many long extra hours during the past few months. A special thanks to Michelle and Nancy for their patience and support through these challenging times. A special thank you to Sandy Stolte. Sandy your role as Village Treasurer is one of the strongest assets to our community. Sandy’s knowledge and many hours of hard work are priceless. I value her support and guidance in the days past and in the future. Thank you to my wife and family for all their support. I look forward to working with the many community organizations, businesses and citizens of our community. Working together with the board, all the village employees, police and emergency services, we will meet the challenges ahead with honesty, focus and patience.

VISITORS
Charles Whitlow, Terry and Debbie Politsch, Ted Dennis, Sharon and Terry Marquardt, Cheryl Klein

MAYOR’S TIME
Mayor Klein appointed Ted Dennis as the Village Attorney. Ted is with the office of Freeark, Harvey, & Mendillo and lives in Freeburg. Some questions were asked by the trustees to Ted. Ted stated the Village Attorney is the attorney for the village not the mayor’s attorney. Ted also noted he is a cousin to Mayor Klein’s wife.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall; to approve Mayor Klein’s appointment of Ted Dennis as the Village Attorney.

Mayor Klein appointed Terry Marquardt as Chief of Police. Some questions were asked by the trustees to Terry. Terry commented he had no involvement with the problems in the Freeburg police department. Trustee Hall wants the police committee to meet and discuss before hiring Terry. A background check and drug testing also needs to be done. Trustee Hall noted he has nothing against Terry or Mayor Klein’s choice, just the village has been through a lot in the past two years.
Trustee Hall made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to not approve Terry Marquardt as Police Chief tonight, but to hold a committee meeting to discuss first. There was much discussion. Trustee Hall rescinded his motion.

Trustee Hall made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kreher to approve the appointment of Terry Marquardt as Police Chief subject to background check and drug test. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher and Weber. Politsch and Hall abstained.

Mayor Klein appointed Tim Buehler as Police Lieutenant.

Trustee Weber made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the appointment of Tim Buehler as Police Lieutenant. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Sandy Stolte at Village Treasurer.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the appointment of Sandy Stolte as Village Treasurer. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Michelle Neff as Village Clerk and Collector.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the appointment of Michelle Neff as Village Clerk and Collector. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Tyler Liefer as Building Commissioner.

Trustee Weber made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the appointment of Tyler Liefer as Building Commissioner. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Tyler Liefer as Superintendent of Public Works.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the appointment of Tyler Liefer as Superintendent of Public Works. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Trustee Kreher as ESDA Coordinator. Trustee Geppert noted a board member cannot be appointed as ESDA Coordinator. Mayor Klein revised his appointment to Terry Marquardt.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the appointment of Terry Marquardt as ESDA Coordinator. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Terry Hamon as ESDA Co-Coordinator.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Weber to approve the appointment of Terry Hamon as ESDA Co-Coordinator. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Rhutasal as Village Engineer.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the appointment of Rhutasal as Village Engineer. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Jake Owens as Ambulance Director.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hall to approve the appointment of Jake Owens as Ambulance Director. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Ray Wilson and Terry Hamon as full-time patrolman.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the appointments of Ray Wilson and Terry Hamon as full-time patrolman. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed John Hoffman, Jake Hoffman, Dave Unverferth, and Alex Weinder as part-time patrolman.
Dave Unverferth and Alex Weinder appointments will be subject to background check and drug test. Trustee Hall asked who was left out of the appointments. Stan Ruhman, Jeff Fields, Mike Dahm were left off the appointments. Mayor Klein was told Mike Dahm resigned. Trustee Hall spoke with Mike Dahm earlier today and said he did not resign. Mayor Klein added Stan Ruhmann and Mike Dahm to the appointments.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the appointments of Mike Dahm, Stan Ruhmann, John Hoffman, Jake Hoffman, Dave Unverferth, and Alex Weinder as part-time patrolman. Dave Unverferth and Alex Weinder appointments are subject to background check and drug test. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Mayor Klein appointed Tim Pruett, Jamie Newman, Terry Marquardt, Tyler Liefer, Steven Schuessler, Robert Nast, Scott Meggs and Rich Klein to the Planning Commission.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the appointments of Tim Pruett, Jamie Newman, Terry Marquardt, Tyler Liefer, Steven Schuessler, Robert Nast, Scott Meggs and Rich Klein to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Klein noted the Zoning Board appointments will stay the same as none of their terms are expired.

Mayor Klein appointed Larry Weber as Vice President.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the appointment of Larry Weber as Vice President.

Mayor Klein handed out the committee assignments.

**PERSONNEL**

Mayor Klein requested to enter into executive session to discuss personnel.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to enter into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:08 p.m. with Sandy Stolte and Attorney Dennis present. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Weber to return to regular session at 9:34 p.m. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve to continue to pay Ira Renshaw $1400 per month for the year 2013 for sewer treatment plant work. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hall to approve to the bonus pay of $3500 to Lieutenant Buehler, $2500 to Officer Wilson and $500 to Officer Hamon. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

Trustee Kreher made a motion, seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Terry Marquardt, for 2013 year only, one week of paid vacation and one week unpaid vacation, if he chooses, then he must follow the ordinance as it reads. A vote was answered by Geppert, Hampton, Kreher, Politsch, Hall, and Weber.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Rich Klein  
Village President

Michelle Neff  
Village Clerk