7:30 p.m. The regular 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 Kreher, Weber, Hampton, Geppert, Politsch and Hall. Tyler Liefer, Sandy Stolte, Officer Hamon, Officer Wilson, and Chief Marquardt were also present.

Trustee Weber noted a correction needs to be made on the previous meeting minutes under public safety.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kreher to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the correction noted. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Hall, Geppert, Politsch, and Weber.

VISITORS
Michelle Hall, Doug Poston and Tim Pruett

Doug Poston was present to find out what was going to be done with the blocked storm sewer by his house. Tyler said they ran the sewer jet through the culvert and it still has blockage. Tyler told the board the culvert needs to be replaced or taken out. Trustee Kreher to schedule a streets and alleys committee meeting to discuss the options.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS
Nothing new to report.

WATER & SEWER
Tim Pruett of Rhutasel suggested to the board they approve pay request number 11 from Plocher in the amount of $130,207 plus any engineering fees. There is a balance of $30,000 still owed to Plocher. The old generator is getting repaired for the Keim lift station.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve pay request number 11 from Plocher in the amount of $130,207 plus any engineering fees and send to IEPA for payment from the loan. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

The sign for the new sewer plant will have the mayor, 8 trustees, Ira Renshaw and Tyler Liefer on it, so everyone is included from the start to the finish of the new sewer plant project.

The board received a letter from Jay Ozier requesting a credit on the sewer portion on his water bill for filling their pool due to water evaporation and the liner being torn twice by their dog. The board discussed. Michelle noted the letter was received today so it could not be added to the agenda for a vote. Trustee Kreher and Trustee Hall said it could be voted on since we were not voting to spend money.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Weber to deny the request for sewer credit on Jay Ozier’s water bill for pool fill up. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

STREETS & ALLEYS
Tyler Liefer noted the Johnson Street project is scheduled to start Wednesday September 18th. The project should be done in 30 days.

Trustee Politsch questioned about the sidewalks on East Street that are dug up. Tyler Liefer said they are working on replacing sidewalks where tree roots are pushing them up.

PARK
Nothing new to report

CEMETERY
Nothing new to report

PUBLIC SAFETY
Trustee Geppert talked with Sandy Cummins about scheduling time to get together to work on ESDA.

POLICE
Chief Marquardt said they could swap out the dog kennel seat with a regular seat for the old impala with the Freeburg police department. Chief informed a resident on Meadowlark that he needs to apply for a special use permit to operate a business in an SR2 district.
Trustee Kreher commended the police department for the way they handled the bank robbery. Trustee Hall questioned why Chief was on the highway when the robbery happened. Chief Marquardt said he had just washed his car and was air drying it. Trustee Hall said the highway is not where the crimes in town are happening. Officer Wilson said 80% - 90% of the calls received are for reckless drivers on the highway. Mayor Klein also commended the police for the great job they did handling the robbery and Mayor Klein put an article in the Sunday paper, which he paid for out of his pocket.

PERSONNEL
Tyler Liefer noted he received a letter of resignation from Ronnie Hampton. Trustee Kreher will schedule a committee meeting to review the applications that are on file.

Mayor Klein wants to go into executive session at the end of the meeting.

GRANTS
Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Michelle noted the medical building needs to be sprayed for bugs and spiders. The cost is $85 quarterly and a contract from Anderson Pest Solutions needs to be signed by the mayor.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the contract with Anderson Pest Solutions for pest spraying at the medical building for $85 per quarter. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

Mayor Klein noted he spoke with Ed Cockrell regarding the houses being torn down by St. Clair County as discussed at a previous board meeting. Ed Cockrell told Mayor Klein the houses that are being torn down are owned by St. Clair County.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Michelle said Ordinance 2013-03 allowing a variation on the property at 605 S Johnson Street needs to be voted on. The board previously approved the variance August 5th 2013, now an ordinance needs to be passed.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Ordinance 2013-03 allowing a variation on the property at 605 S Johnson Street. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

TREASURERS TIME
The board reviewed the treasurer’s report.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to approve the monthly treasurer’s report. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Weber, Geppert, Hall and Politsch.

CLERKS TIME
Nothing new to report.

MAYOR’s TIME
Mayor Klein noted we received a proclamation for “Drive 4 Pledge Day”.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the mayor to sign the proclamation for “Drive 4 Pledge Day”. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

Michelle said we also received a proclamation today from the Knights of Columbus for the tootsie roll drive.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the mayor to sign the proclamation for the Knights of Columbus tootsie roll drive. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

OTHER BUSINESS
Trustee Hall read on record. As we all know, we live in the state with arguably the worst budget problems in the country; somewhere around 100 billion in debt. And with that said, we should have the foresight to realize that our
state funding could be gone at any time. That means more than ever we, the board, needs to be more vigilant in our spending of funds. And that is exactly, what I want to address. Last month we spent over $5,000 for chairs for our board meetings. These chairs will only get used for six to seven hours a month. I sit on a bucket for a longer period of time than that in just one day of hunting. And I don’t know about the rest of the board but I don’t have a chair in my house that costs $700. And I would bet 90% of our constituents don’t either. Now don’t get me wrong, we did need new chairs. Two were broken and others were not in the best of shape. But I have sat in nice ones that only cost $130 to $250 a piece; not $700. At the last board meeting a motion was passed to pay Andy’s medical insurance until the end of the year. I contacted an attorney last week and basically, if there is nothing in the contract about this, then this is not proper use of funds. Then I contacted Ted Dennis, the village attorney, and much to my surprise, he had not been contacted at all. Why do we have an attorney if we are not going to use him for matters such as this? I know paying Andy’s insurance for four months will not break the town, but it may be setting a precedent. This is called “past practices” and may mean the town may be liable for this with other employees. If this is what the board wants, fine, but I don’t believe the taxpayers would be in favor of this, because they don’t have it at their jobs. I know everyone is concerned about Andy’s health and welfare including myself. I knew when I was elected to the board there would be some tough decisions to be made and this is a tough one. This brings me to my last point. The taxpayers have entrusted us with their money and we have a responsibility to spend it properly. Spending other people’s money seems to come easy at times. So now I am challenging the board and mayor to make a hard decision and donate their next village paycheck to Andy’s benefit account; Sandy will happily take it.

Sandy Stolte stated Andy has been here 30 years, the decision was the board’s decision to make and it was a legal decision. We have received literature and information from IMRF, our Health Insurance Company and The Department of Insurance explaining what could be done. In the past there was a policy in the ordinance giving the employees 6 months of pay plus insurance premiums. Sandy stated that Andy is still considered a full time employee and as such, is entitled to receive the same amount of insurance coverage offered and paid for as all other full time employees. Trustee Hall felt the attorney should have been contacted prior to the vote being taken. Mayor Klein said he spoke with Attorney Ted Dennis earlier tonight and he would have told us to contact the insurance company for the information, which is what was done.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to enter into executive session at 8:28 p.m. under personnel with Michelle Neff, Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer, Officer Hamon, Officer Wilson and Chief Marquardt present. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to return to regular session at 8:46 p.m. A vote was answered aye by Kreher, Hampton, Politsch, Hall, Geppert and Weber.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Rich Klein
Village President

Michelle Neff
Village Clerk