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 Politsch, Weber, Geppert and Hall. Kreher and Hampton were absent. Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer, Chief Simburger and Officer Hamon were also present.

The board reviewed the minutes from the November 3rd, 2014 board meeting.

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

VISITORS
Mary Sue Iverson and Mark Schreder

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS
Mayor Klein noted the Village received notice St. Clair County is holding a hearing regarding the opening of the old Shamrock as Roadhouse Bar and Restaurant. The hearing will determine if a liquor license will be issued.

WATER & SEWER
Tyler Liefer noted on Veteran’s Day the sewer backed up at the Blue Grass Shack. They ran the sewer jet through the line and the second time they ran the sewer jet through, the sewer line collapsed where the service is hooked up to the main line. Steve Galle was called it was fixed the next day.

STREETS & ALLEYS
Nothing new to report.

PARK
Nothing new to report

CEMETERY
Nothing new to report

PUBLIC SAFETY
Nothing new to report

POLICE
Chief Simburger noted the Illinois Federal Labor Law posters can be purchased on Amazon for $35.05.

Trustee Hall made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the purchase of Illinois Federal Law posters from Amazon for $35.05. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Weber, Geppert and Politsch.

Trustee Politsch asked how many of the part-time officers were working shifts. Chief Simburger said Jason Frank, Dan Lipe, Jason Tutterow and Andrew Hewitt can be taken off the list; it didn’t work out for them to work part-time for New Athens. Cody Mahan works at Marissa and Marissa has been short handed. Joel Boeving works for Freeburg full-time; Chief will ask him if he wants to stay on the list. Chief Simburger said a Washington County Deputy is interested in a part-time position. Trustee Hall said Dan Turner was supposed to come to a meeting to meet the board, but never did. Mayor Klein said he works at Freeburg the same time our board meetings are held so he is unable to attend a meeting.

Chief Simburger said the dealership offered $1,000 for trade in of the old part-time police car when purchasing the new police car.

PERSONNEL
It was discussed during the last board meeting to reduce Ira Renshaw’s pay to $600 per month for the sewer department. He is still needed to sign documents.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Politsch to approve to reduce Ira Renshaw’s pay to $600 per month starting December 1st. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Weber, Geppert and Politsch.

Michelle Neff noted the Mayor signed the health insurance paperwork for the Coventry Silver D2000 plans November 4th.

Tyler Liefer noted he will be off of work every Friday for the next six months for grand jury.
GRANTS
Trustee Geppert reported a committee meeting was held November 5th to discuss a contract that was signed for a previous grant. The contract states we need to dredge the marina and keep a 6-foot depth for twenty years from when the federal grant was signed. Trustee Politsch did not agree with the letter that was sent to Illinois Department of Natural Resources that stated we agreed to dredge the marina. Trustee Geppert said the contract was signed in 2005 and requires us to maintain a minimum depth of 6 feet for 20 years or pay back the grant. Trustee Politsch spoke with John Harwarth, who was on the board when this contract was signed and said he was not aware of the requirement to maintain the depth of 6 feet for 20 years and did not vote for this. Sandy Stolte said this is our oxbow and we are responsible for the upkeep on it. Trustee Politsch also spoke with Ira Renshaw and was told by Ira that he did not write this contract. Trustee Hall wants a copy of the contract and a copy of the minutes to show who voted. A dredger is supposed to be in Fayetteville in the spring and they could dredge the mouth of the oxbow, then another company can come in and finish the dredging. Trustee Politsch said he has a hard time spending money when we are a small Village and don’t have the extra funds to spend on dredging costing $100,000 to $130,000. Trustee Politsch also stated Smitty is behind on rent by $30,500 and getting further behind. Trustee Geppert said that has nothing to do with this. Trustee Politsch said it does because so much of the funding goes back into there. Sandy Stolte said the letter to Illinois Department of Natural Resources shows we recognize the problem we have and shows intent to fix the problem.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Trustee Politsch reported a thermostat in the multi-purpose building is leaning on the wall, an outside window pane still has a hole in it and the gutters on all Village buildings needs to be checked and cleaned.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Trustee Politsch noted plywood is coming loose from some of the windows and the garage door is not secure at the house on 309 South Clinton Street. Chief Simburger to contact the owner.

TREASURERS TIME
The board reviewed the monthly treasurer’s report.

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

Sandy Stolte gave the board a monthly asset report to review. She noted the $68,000 decrease in ambulance funds is from February 2014 to the present. The service agreement contracts expire December 2015 with Lenzburg, as well as the contract with the New Athens Fire Department. The board needs to start reviewing the contracts and come up with a plan.

Trustee Hall noted the audit committee could not meet to discuss the tax levy before the board meeting as scheduled since Trustee Kreher and Trustee Hampton were absent. Sandy Stolte explained the tax levy options. $179,000 was received from last year’s real estate taxes paid by the residents for the tax levy.

Trustee Hall made a motion; seconded by Trustee Weber to approve to the increase of 4.867% for the tax levy. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Weber, Geppert and Politsch.

Sandy Stolte said Cozen O’Connor needs to assist in the Azaver Audit to collect utility taxes from Ameren. The legal fees will be taken out of Azavar fees.

Trustee Hall made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve Mayor Klein to sign the engagement letter with Cozen O’Connor for the Azaver audit. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Weber, Geppert and Politsch.

CLERKS TIME
Nothing new to report

MAYOR’S TIME
Mayor Klein was invited to the Bullpen for a Veteran’s ceremony on Sunday and he appreciated the chance to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS
Nothing new to report

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Rich Klein
Village President

Michelle Neff
Village Clerk